

**Learned and True Assertion of
the original, Life, Actes, and death of
the most Noble, Valiant, and Renowned Prince
Arthur, King of great Brittain.**

**Who succeeding his father Vther Pendragon, and right
nobly gouerning this Land sixe and twentie yeares,
then dyed of a mortall wounde receyued in battell,
together with victory ouer his enemies. As
appeareth Cap. 9. And was buried at
Windsor, Cap. 20. An. 543.**

**Collected and written of late yeares in Lattin, by the
learned English Antiquarie of worthy memory
Iohn Leyland.**

**Nowly translated into English by Richard Rolofo
Citizen of London. Anno Domini**



**Imprinted by Iohn Wolfe, dwelling in
Dunstable Lane, ouer against the Church
of the Castell. 1582.**

Insignia Illustrium Patronorum, huius

opusculi selectorum.

ARTHURVS BARO D. HENRICVS SIDNEY, Illustrissimi Or-
dinis Garterij Miles, vnus Consiliario-
rum D. Reg. & in Principa-

Gray, de Walton.

tu Wallia Praesid.



Magister Thomas Smith D. Reginae
Custumarius Principalis, in
Portu London.



To the Right Honorable Lord ARTHUR
GRAY, Baron of Wilton, Lord Deputie
& Liefetenant Generall for the Queenes

Majestie in Ireland:

To the Right Honorable Sir HENRY SIDNEY, Knight
of the Honorable Order of the Garter, & President for

To the Right worshipfull M. THOMAS SMITH, Esquire, &
Chiefe Customer for her Majestie in the Port of London: & to the Wor-
shipfull Societie of Archers, in London, yearly celebrating the reno-
med memorie of the Magnificent Prince ARTHUR, & his
Knighly Order of the Round Table.

Grace, mercy, & Peace in the Lord Everlastinge.



HAVING in mindefull memorie
(Right Honorable, and Worshipp-
full) that mercifull covenant of
peace, by our omnipotent Crea-
tor towards all flesh thus mani-
fested (I do set my Raine Bowe in the
cloudes, & it shall be as a token betwene
me & the earth) promising hereby

Gen. 9

never to destroy the same any
more by waters: how much ought mankind specially, en-
joying by this peaceable pact, from Heavē, Earth, & the
Sea abundance of benefittes: feare God in his holines,
love one an other in righteousnesse, and vse these bene-
fittes with thankfulness to the aduancement of his
glory. For this Bowe, this Rainebowe I say of his cou-
nant, and pledge of his peace, left vnto vs fro the deluge
(as *Isaiah* affirmeth) Naturally appeareth by reflection
or giving backe of the light of the Sunne, from a cloude opposite, or
against the same. So our heauely God, the Father of light,
and giuer of grace, departeth with the light of his
manifold mercies vnto mankind, from the opposite
cloudes of his displeasure. Againe, this Bowe of his co-

And merces
liber 3. Cap. 2.
Trac. 2.

protected his holy ones in peace and warres against their enemies, we reade also in the deuine histories from time to time how and by what ordinarie meanes of power, force, and defence, he reached vnto his feeble flocke his mightie arme to the discomforture of the enemye & vtter subuersion both of their power & pollicie, according to his promises aforesaide. Heere then memorable and praiseworthy is the prouidence of this most mightie God, who promising helpe vnto the Iewes against the Gentiles, vsed no kinde of speech so much as this, *That he would bend his Bow and dye his shaftes in blood.* As who say, God will make the Iewes shoote strong shootes to overthrow their enemies: or at the least, that shooting is a wonderfull mightie thing, whereunto the high power of God is likened. This bow a weapon of defence, the Raine Bow a token of truce: This Bow in peace a pleasure, the Raine Bowe a signe of serenitie: this Bow in warres a paine to the enemye, the Raine Bow at all times and to all people *Gods token betwene him and the earth.* The one an instrument of mercy, the other of destruction: the godly haue both as their comfort and sauegarde by Gods protection, the vngodly either wanting the one or hauing both, haue them to their confusion and subuersion by his reiection. As we reade of King Saul, that he was slaine of the Philistians being mightie bowmen: and with him also his Sonne Ionathas who as the scripture saith neuer shot shaft in vaine. And that the Kingdome of Israel after Sauls death came vnto King Dauid: who after he was King, decreed by the first statute which he enacted, *That all the children of Israel should learne to shoote in the bowe,* according to a law made many a day before *ut patet in libro iustorum,* a booke not now in vse to be founde. In his booke of Psalmes as hee saide *He was at peace with them that hated peace.* So named hee the bow and arrowes in diuers manners & meanings, as in his Psal. 7. vers. 13. & 14. Psal. 11. vers. 3. Psal. 18. vers. 13. Psal. 21. vers. 12. Psal. 45. vers. 6. Psal. 49. vers. 9. 64. vers. 3. & 4. 76. vers. 3. 91. vers. 5. 127. vers. 4. & 5.

Deut 32.

Reg. 10.

1. Reg. 2.

THE EPISTLE.

Finally in his 147. Psal. vers. 6. Praying to God for deliuerance from his enemies and for their destruction. He saith, *Shoot thine arrowes and consume them*: So yet that He neuer trusted in bowe nor sworde, but in the power of God. Hee affirmeth it Psalme 44. vers. 6. And to conclude that he had rather liue in a godly peace thē to warre against the wicked, he saith in the 119. Psal. vers. 15. *As at a mark he will sayme to walke in the wayes of the Lord*. Of this minde was not King Iosias, who though leading a godly life at home in Iuda, yet going vniustly to fight against Nichao King of Egypt, was rather friendly dehorted by him frō his purpose then otherwise, saying: *Leave off to worke against the Lord which is with mee least he do slay thee*, which admonition Iosias not regarding as spoken from God, tasted in deede of Gods iust indgment: for being shot thorow wth arrowes he was wounded to the death incontinently. I could at large here call to minde the commendation of this peaccable practise of shooting which once I as a rawe scholler reade ouer in *Toxophilus*, and at times by tasked lessons interpreted in latine here and there: but for breuitie, I refer your honours, and worshipes vnto the Histories there, of the Ethiopian king, and Cambyses king of Persia. Of Sesostris and his archers. Of the Messagetanes which neuer went without their bowe and quiver neyther in peace nor in warres. Of Policrates and his one thousand archers. Of the Scithians (whose whole substance and riches of a man being a yoke of Oxen and a plow, a Nagge and his dogge, his bowe and his quiver) were inuincible against Darius and other Monarckes. To be short, the Grecians, Persians, Athenians, and the Romanes, whose shooting in peace and warres was worthie of praise and fame. Neyther here ought I nor will I omit with silence the deserved fame of our Ancestors in fauouringe this exercise in this our litle England long agoe liuing and of latter time, though breefly, referring your honours & worshippes vnto the histories at large, as of Brute and his Troianes the first Brittaines, before and after the arrivall of Iulius Caesar, Claudius, & Vespasian Emperoures and

DEDICATORIE

and they Romanes: after them the Saxons vntill the time of Vortiger, the vsurping murtherer, who (Gods prouidence so working for them, and his iudgement vpon him) by the two Brethern and valiant Brittaines Aurelius surnamed Ambrose, & Vther Pendragon, being burned in his Castell in Wales, was occasion of the Brittaines more happier estate afterwarde. But here yet by the way (*Right honourable and worshipfull*) as I applaude in this their well doing, so it had beene a thing of Brittaines most worthelie to be wished, for that Prince himselfe lesse opprobrious, of all mé more praise worthie, and most pretious in the sight of God: if the serpent Tyrus had wanted here his venime vncurable, though his flesh proued medicinable against all other poysons (as saith Cardanus in his booke of Comfort.) I meane if Vther Pendragon had wanted that serpentine poyson of adulterie, Nigromancie & murther (things odible to God and good men:) when that most incomperable King Arthure of great Brittaines for his princely prouesse, valiant vertues, and triumphant victories yet proued more Royally renoumed throughoute all the worlde in his time and to his posteritie. The Hebrewes with greate and not vnderfuerd titles extolled their Indas Maccabeus. Homer the glory of all Greeke Poets left Hector and Achilles most commendable vnto the worlde. Neyther by lesse diligence did the Grecians adorne with praise Alexander the most mightie conquerour. And the Romanes aduanced the noble actes of their Cesar to the Skyes not enough. The Burgonians profoundly praised Godfrey of Bulloyn (for his noble valiancy) as the scourge of the Sarazens in his dayes. And as enery one of those are commended with due desert: so in like máner there were neuer Brittaines wanting of excellent learning and exquisite knowledge to leaue with carefull diligence and credible commendation, the progenie, life, prouesse prosperitie, and triumphant victories of our said auncient Arthure worthely published vnto the worlde. And as Alexander

DEDICATORY.

would have nose to puttraſt him but Apelles, nor any but Lyſippus to engrave him in braſſe, nor any but Pyrgoteles to worke him in pretiouſe ſtone: So where in not three, but many Artizans as learned Gildas, William of Malmsbury, Nennius, Dionoſes, Graius, Joſephus, Geoffrey of Monmouth, Silueſter Giraldus, &c. performed their worthie workmanſhippes in our Arthure Mair (to uſe the Brittain phraſe:) euen one Engliſh Leyland for his learned labour landable, hath perfectly poliſhed him in all poyntes. Chuiſing a cheefe & moſt perſpicuouſe, a valiant & moſt victoriouſe, a couragious and moſt conquerouſe, a religiouſe and moſt redoubted Royall ſoueraigne King Henry the eight, as ſole ſupreme Patron and protector thereof againſt the rankered curriſh kinde of cateling carpers. By cauſe his elder brother being named Arthure, he him ſelfe a moſt chriſtian King for all heroicall vertues commendable, the rather ſeemed to fauour and further the aduancement of the fame of his moſt renoumed aunceſtor this ſame our ancient Arthure and the knightly traine of his rounde table. Hereupon by patent of his princely prerogative ordayned, graunted, and confirmed hee vnto this honorable Citie of London, free electiō of a Chieftaine and of Citizens repreſenting the memory of that magnificent King Arthure, and the Knightes of the ſame order, which ſhould for the mayntenance of ſhooting onely, meete together once a yeare, with ſolemne and friendly celebration therof. So much in his noble minde preuayled all prouident care of princely prowefſe, valiancie, chenalrie, and actinitie, that he not onely herein imitated the examplers of godly K. Dauid for his Iſraelites as before, and of that noble Emperour Leo in ouerthrowing idolatrie, and exalting archerie maugre the malliee of that Romane Antichriſt, and all his members: but alſo inuincibly maintayned the praiſeworthie practize of this ſhooting in peace & wars by the examples of his princely progenitors. As after the

2 Reg. 1.
Armo 730

con-

conquest, of K. Henry II. alias Beauclerck so surnamed,
the first furtherer of K. Arthures beneficencie, valiant Ed-
ward surnamed long & first vizitor of the saide Kinges
tombe, valiant and victorius Edward III. & IIII. bounti-
ous and liberall Richard II. good and gratiouse Henry
the V. wise, politique, iust, temperate, and graue King
Henry the VI. his father. Neither hath this ceased in the
branch, that flourished in the bole: but by the milde,
religiouse, and gratiouse King Edward the VI. and now
last of all by the Phenix of feminine sex, our most re-
doubted Hester and gratiouse soueraigne Ladie Queene
Elizabeth laudably lasteth in force and effect: whose
highnesse so many yeares humbling, not exalting her
selfe the more by reason of her power, wholly setteth her
subiectes in peace, preferring the same. Now therefore
(*Right honourable and worshipfull*) as duetie bindeth euery
degree to further the welfare of this blessed peace, and
the profit of this excellent practise: proceede I humbly
beleech you with noble Nehemias and those godly su-
peruisors with dutifull diligence, with the one hand
holding your boes, and with the other hand as good la-
borers for your Prince & publike wealth, to beare the
burdens of your vocation, towards the buylding of this
earthly Ierusalem, even from the morning spring till the
Starres come forth. Continually I say accustome your
selues to seeke this peace of the gospell and to ensue the
same, ryde on I say with renoume vpon that *White Horse*
whose sister hauing a boe and a crowne given him hath promisse
from the mightie power of God, that he shall go forth conquering
and shall ouercome. That Christ our King of the vniuersall
Church with his crowne and septer, and with the shaftes
of his mouth or worde and gospell of peace may pearce
throughout the worlde to the aduancement of his glo-
ry which shal sit on the raineboe in his maiestie to iudge
all Nations, (as the feare of his holynesse, mutuall loue
in righteousnesse, and thankfulnesse for his benefites
may moue all men) I haue traueled in the translation of
this booke out of Latin into English, with all humble &

Hest. Cap. 13.

2. Ed. 4.

Reuel. 6.

Deut. 31.

Psal. 131.

Psal. 132.

True harted reuerence, beseeching God to assist you
 right honourable Lord Deputie with his omnipotent
 power, that as an inuincible Iosua you may continually
bring in the people to the due knowledge of God, and obedience of
our Prince: & as a notable Nehemias in true feare of God
 without feare of foe buylde vp this earthly Ierusalem to
 the perfection of that perpetuall peace, promised in the
 heauenly Ierusalem. Finally that you right honourable
 Lord President, and you right worshipfull Master Tho-
 mas Smith with your worshipfull associates, *Daily pray-*
ing for the peace of this Ierusalem, as the amitie thereof is
 sweete by the vnitie of your mindes: So that, *Hoc sit lon-*
gissime ut perincundum sic cohabitare fratres in unum, I accor-
 ding to my humble duty hartely do pray vnto God, cra-
 uing pardon of your honours and worshippes generally
 for this my bold dedication. And beseeching you fauou-
 rably to accept the same in furdurance of my poore stu-
 dy of dutifull well wishing towards my Prince & coun-
 trie: I humbly and hartely beseech the eternall & om-
 nipotent God to multiply his manifold mercies vpon
 your honours & worshippes, that being all of one dutifull
 minde in God towards the maiestie of our most sacred
 foueraigne lady (vnder her long liuing in peaceable pro-
 speritie) we may after this life attaine vnto that peace-
 able and perpetuall kingdome of Heauen to raigne as
 coheires with Christ our Lord in the glory of his Father.
 AMEN.

Your Honourable Lordships, and worthie Worships
 most humble and faithfull poore Orator,

RICHARD ROBINSON,

Citizen of London.

I. L. *Ad Candidos Lectores.*

*Delituit certé multis Arturius annis,
Vera Brittannorum, Gloria, Lumen, Honos:
Dispulit obscuras alacer Lelandius umbras,
Sydereum mundo restituitq; iubar.
Plaudite Lectores studiosa caterna disertis,
Prestitit officium candidus ille suum:
Hinc procul at fugiant Codrino felle tumentes,
Ne proprio crepitent ilia rupta malo.*

I. L. *To the Sincere Readers.*

*Many yeeres surely Arthure hidden lay,
Of Brittons, the Glory, Light & Honor true:
Cheerely hath Leyland driue darke shadowes away,
And yeelds the world bright shining Sun to view.
Of Learned Readers, rejoyce yee studious Crew,
He sincere did his Duetie bounden fulfill:
Farre hence flee those their spyte which spew,
Least their Intestines burst with their owne ill.*



The Table of the names of those *Authors*,
whose testimonies this present
Booke vseth.

Foraine writers.

Lucanus. }
Iuuenall. } Poets,
Martiall. }

Cornelius Tactus.
Paulus Diaconus.
Claudius Gallus.
Iohānes Anneuillanus.
Valerius,
Boccace.
Diuionensis.
Ponticus Virannius. } Histo-
rio
gra
phers

Brittaine writers.

Theliesius.
Ambrosius Maridunensis.
Merlinus Caledonius.
Melchius.
Patricius Glesoburgensis.
Gildas Bannochorensis.
Anonymus.
Nennius.
Samuell.
Beda Gironicanus.

Afferius Meneuensis.
Gulielmus Meildunensis.
Galfridus Monemuthensis.
Aluredus Fibroleganus.
Henricus Venantodunensis.
Iosephus Iscanus.
Siluester Giraldus.
Matheus Parisius.
Iohannes Chysistoriographus.
Gulielmus Paruus.
Iohannes Fiberius.
Thomas Vicanus.
Ranulphus Higedenus.
Matheus Florilegus.
Iohannes Burgenfis.
Thomas Melorius.
Scalechronica.
Chronica Durenfis.
Chronica Glesoburgensis.
Chronica Perforana.

Cor. 13.
Nihil contra veritatem a-
gere possumus sed pro Veri-
tate.

Prou. 12. Labium Veritatis firmum in perpetuum.

Prou. 21. Testis autem mendax peribit.

Esdra. 3. 9. Super omnia autem vincit Veritas.

*Certaine memorable Notes inserted into this As-
sertion since the Translation thereof.*

By Ric. Ro.

A Pliny saith, Ingenui pudoris est fateri per quos
profeceris: So I must freely confesse the friendly
helps of those which profited me in this purpose.

First by conference with Master Steuen Batman, a lear-
ned Preacher and friendly sauourer of vertue and learning,
(touching the praise worthy progenie of this K. Arthure) he
gaue me this assured knowledge on this maner taken out of
his Auncient records written at Aualonia.

Wherein found in certaine Cronicles, wherein were dis-
courses had of Aruiragus king of Brittain 45. yeeres after
the natiuitie of Christe.

Twelue men in number entered the Vale of Aualon:
Ioseph of Aramathia was the chiefeest flowre of them,
Ioseph the sonne of Ioseph, his father did attend,
With other tenne: and Glaston did possesse.

Thereafter this writing doo witness, that K. Arthure of
greate Brittain descended of the stocke of y^e saine Ioseph his.
Melarius the nephew of Ioseph begate Iosue, Iosue be-
gate Aminadab, Aminadab begate Castellors, Castellors
begate Manaell, Manaell begate Lambord and Vrlard, and
Lambord begate a sonne that begate Igera, of which wo-
man, king Yther Pendragon begate the noble and renou-
med King Arthure. Whereby it plainly appeareth, that
K. Arthure descended of the stocke of Ioseph.

Againe, like wise of the same kindred (whereof K. Arthure
came) proceeded these auncient Brittaines also.

Peter the Cosen of Ioseph of Aramathia, king of Arcadia,
begate Erian, Erian begate Melianus, Melianus begate
Arguthe, Arguthe begate Ebor, Ebor begate Lotho which
married to wife the sister of K. Arthure, of whom Lotho be-
gate 4. sonnes, to wit, Walwance Agranais, Guerelies,
and Garelies: all which were noble men of authority in
Brittain where they dwelt.

Shewed me out of his auncient records the
interchaunges of king Arthures armes which hee gaue in
three chiefes, from the first to the third: viz.

His first armes he bare in a shield Gules, (red) three Ser-
pentes, Or. gold

His second hee bare in a shield Vert, (greene) a plaine
Crossargent: in chiefe the figure of the Virgin Marie with
Christe in her armes.

His third and last in a shield Azure, (blew) three crownes.
Or. (gold.)

But after knowledge of these severall armes, I had intelli-
gence of a certaine french booke, wherein he is reported to
aue giuen in a shield Azure (blew) 13. Crownes. Or.
gold

This booke being in an English mans handes, I was
not so desirous to see it, but he as willingly shewed it & lent
it me. There was in it portrayed both the severall names,
shields, and severall armes in colours also depainted of all
K. Arthures knights and vnder euery one the commen-
dation due vnto him by his cheualrie. Which because the en-
graving of their armes was very chargeable, & the circum-
stance of matter more then I could in so shorthe time publish
in the English tongue: I was enforced to content me with
this briefe collection concerning K. Arthure, and with the
names of 16. kinges, one Duke, and 149. knights, so ma-
ny as were therein printed. viz.

Of King Arthure himselfe it saith

Directly vnder his shield

thus.

King Arthure did beare in his shield Azure (blew) 13.
Crownes of gold: He was a greate conquerour, and of noble
and valiant prowesse: hee instituted the order of the rounde
Table in the kingdome of greates Brittain: vnto the which
he appointed all his chosens knights at threescore and seue-
n, to come, and holde their homage of him by the same or-
der.

**Now followeth the names of thoe knightes,
and first how many kinges**

Kinges.

- 1 Le Roy Meliadus.
- 2 Le Roy Ban de Benock.
- 3 Le Roy Boort de Gauues.
- 4 Le Roy Karados.
- 5 Le Roy Lac.
- 6 Le Roy de Clares.
- 7 Le Roy Vrien.
- 8 Le Roy Loutho de Orchany.
- 9 Le Roy Ryon.
- 10 Le Roy Peliwor.
- 11 Le Roy Baudemagus, de Goure.
- 12 Le Roy Pharamondo.
- 13 Le Roy Galganoys de Nor-galles.
- 14 Le Roy Aguisant d'Esosse.
- 15 Le Roy Malaquin d'outre les marches de Gallouane.
- 16 Le Roy Claudas.

- 17 Le Duke de Clarence.

Knightes.

- 1 Messier Lancelot du Lac.
- 2 Boort de Gauues.
- 3 Gawain d'Orchany.
- 4 Messier Tristran de Lyonnoys.
- 5 Lyoner de Gauues.
- 6 Helias le Blanc.
- 7 Hector des Mares.
- 8 Bliomberis de Gauues.
- 9 Gaherriet.
- 10 Keux le Seneschall.
- 11 Messier Yuaine.
- 12 Bruor le Noir.
- 13 Bandoyer le Conestable.
- 14 Agruall de Galles.
- 15 Segurades.
- 16 Patris le Hardy.
- 17 Esclabor le Messonier.
- 18 Saphar le mefcognieu.
- 19 Sagremor le desree.
- 20 Gyron le Curtoys.

- 21 Seguram le Brun.
- 22 Galehaut le Blanc.
- 23 Le Morholt de Ireland.
- 24 Danayn le Roux.
- 25 Amilan de Sessougné.
- 26 Brallain.
- 27 Brallain que lon disoit le Cheualier an duex espres.
- 28 Galehaut.
- 29 Lamorat de Lysthenoy.
- 30 Brunor de Gauues.
- 31 Le bon Cheualier de Nor-galles.
- 32 Henry de Ryuell.
- 33 Messier Gullar.
- 34 Gueherres.
- 35 Aggrauaine le Orgueilleux.
- 36 Mordrec de Orchany.
- 37 Gyffler.
- 38 Dodynne le Sauaige.
- 39 Yusin le Auoutre.
- 40 Ozelement Coeur hardy.
- 41 Gualgantime le Galloys.
- 42 Gaherriet de Lemball.
- 43 Mador de la porte.
- 44 Bamers le forcene.
- 45 Dynadam de Estrangar.
- 46 Herret le filz de lac.
- 47 Artus le petit.
- 48 Cinglant Rochmont.
- 49 Artus le bloy.
- 50 Guallogrenant de Wind-zores.
- 51 Kandelis.
- 52 Merangis des portz.
- 53 Gauuaine le franc.
- 54 Gnades le fort.
- 55 Pharas le Noir.
- 56 Pharas le Roux.
- 57 Iambegues le Garruloys.
- 58 Taulas de la mountaine.
- 59 Abandan le fortune.
- 60 Damaitha de folimet.
- 61 Amand le bel Iousteur.
- 62 Ganesmor le Noir.
- 63 Arphin le Dire.
- 64 Arconstant le adures.
- 65 Le Beau courant.
- 66 Le laid hardy.
- 67 Andelis le Roux serré.
- 68 Bruyant des Isles.

- 69 Ozenall de Estrange.
- 70 Le Cheualier de Esher.
- 71 Le Varlet de Gluy.
- 72 Heroy le Joyeux.
- 73 Fergus du bla de lieu.
- 74 Lot le Coureur.
- 75 Meliadus del Espinoy.
- 76 Meliadus an noir ail.
- 77 Agyllus des vauz.
- 78 Lamburg du Chastell.
- 79 Messire Clamorat.
- 80 Suraillos des sept fontanes.
- 81 Le Varlet an Circle.
- 82 Kaedins de Lonzein.
- 83 Lucabe le Bontellier.
- 84 Bruner de la fontaine.
- 85 L'enfant du plésies.
- 86 Persides le grand.
- 87 Sibillan aux dures mains.
- 88 Sinados le Esile.
- 89 Arphazael le groz cour.
- 90 Le blonde Amoureux.
- 91 Argahac le Beau.
- 92 Nombille le Pelerin.
- 93 Harmaine le felon.
- 94 Toseane le Romane.
- 95 Landone le Leger.
- 96 Le fort troue.
- 97 Le Noir Perdu.
- 98 Le fortune de lisse.
- 99 Le fee des Dames.
- 100 Le Forester de Dénéwich.
- 101 Le Chasseur de outre les marches.
- 102 Ieyr de Landoy de Ruse.
- 103 Geoffroy le Lancoy.
- 104 Randwin le persien.
- 105 Froyadus le Gay.
- 106 Rouselin de la autre mode.
- 107 Garrant le Roche dure.
- 108 Arm. on ouuert serpent.
- 109 Ferrand du terre.
- 110 Thor le filz de Arez.
- 111 Iupin des croix.
- 112 Ydeux le fort Tyrant.
- 113 Bolinian du Boys.
- 114 Le bon Cheualier sans paour.
- 115 Broudas le Espaignoll.
- 116 Brechus sans Pitye.
- 117 Malignain.
- 118 Le Cheualier de Scallon.

118 Mellier de l'Espine.
 119 Agroerle el Patrides au
 Circle d'Or.
 120 Mandius le noir.
 121 Percevall de Gallis.
 122 Aeu des fraux.
 123 Lamant du Boys.
 124 Melianderis de Sanfen.
 125 Mandrin le Sage.
 126 Kalahart le peure.
 127 Sadoce Vencon.

128 Verrand de la Roche.
 129 Verrand de la Roche.
 130 Le Brunfons ioy.
 131 Iustetins le grand.
 132 Le Cheualier des sept voyes.
 133 Gryngaloy le fort.
 134 Malaquin le Galois.
 135 Agricole Beau grand.
 136 Gualindres du Tetre.
 137 Margondes le Rongo.
 138 Kacerdius de la Vallee.

139 Talamorle Volant.
 140 Talamorle Volant.
 141 Alibel de Logres.
 142 Dalides de la Ryuier.
 143 Arain du piné.
 144 Arganor le riche.
 145 Melias le Beau Chenaillon.
 146 Meliadus le Blanc.
 147 Malaquin le gros.
 148 Mellier Palamides.
 149 Alexander le Orphelin.

Summa
 totalis
 166.
 Knights.

Whereof

Kings 16.
 Dukes 1.
 Knights
 149.

Besides notice of these I vsed in my translation from time to
 time, the helpe (of Maister *John Stow*, & *Maister Cambes* diligēt sear-
 chers in antiquities.) for the interpretation of those hard brittish
 and Welch Townes or names of places, which neither *Maister*
Leyland the Collector of this Assertion had expounded per-
 fectlie, neither I my selfe the translator could other-
 wise of my selfe haue perfourmed. For the
 which I am to gratifie them as
 the others also before re-
 cyted.

The Assertion of K. Arthure.



FVIDENT It is, by the speciall agreement of Greeke and Latine writers, that Hercules was bozne of Alcmena, by the adultery of Iupiter. But what manner of person, or how mightie in times past hee was, I suppose is euen of the meanely learned better knowne, then that at this present needeth any further Insinuatiō. And very many others there were bozne in adultery, (as by the Auncient History largely appeareth) whose prowesse at home, and in warres, notably excelled. Amongest whom also our Arthure, the chiefest ornament of Brittain, and the onely myracle of his time, flourished famously. May I therefore bee so bolde by good leaue of Gulielmus Paruus, yea and so of his most mightie successour in place, Polidorus, euen with condigne praises to commend my countryman Arthure: and with the same diligence to leane vnto the Brittain history interpreted by Geoffrey of Munmouth a man not altogether vnlearned, (what soeuer otherwise persons ignorant of antiquitie, which thinke themselves to haue knowledge, shall say) as vnto a firme defence, rather then vnto the fond fables or base stufte of sovraine writers. Truly, in fables which haue crept into the history of Arthure, I doe not more delite, then Polidorus, the Judge. But to bee afeaide of any man by reason of his greate age, or eloquence, or authoritie, finally as like a foolish forsaker of the truth, I shoulde so leaue her partes vndefended: that certainly will I neuer doe. An other way, do equity, honesty, the rule of fame, and heerehence a iust loue to my country, yea truth it selfe (the which one thing, nothing more deare I loue) fully moue me. But yet neither thinke I to wage battaile with the Learned: In meane time, yet by good reason it shall be free for me, to make most famous the state of my coutrie, and specially

William Paruus & Polidorus Virgilius, two aduersaries of K. Arthures fame.

The Authours good purpose in this worke.

The Assertion of

cially the partes of truth, euen with singuler diligence
expedyt industry, cheerefull labour, prompt counsell, quick
iudgment, yea, and finally by all meanes. Therefore, trust-
ing in the good will, humanitie, and courteous fauour of the
honest readers, I will now attempt somewhat more, circum-
spectly to finde out Prince Arthures Dignall, euen from
the very egge.

Est locus Abrini sinuoso littore ponti,
Rupe situs media, refluus quem circuit ælius,
Fulminat hic latè, turrito vertice Castrum,
Nomine Tindagium, veteres dixere Corini.

*A place there is ith' winding shoare of th' Abryne Seabynance,
Scituate in middest of a rocke, wheare ebbing ryde the same
Enuironeth. A Castle here with towery top shines bright,
(By auncient Cornish mē so called) which Tintagill the hight.*

A Constant fame is there giuen out by the voyce of ma-
nie, and also confirmed with the wytynges of Lear-
ned men, that Gorloys the Gouernour of Cornewale
had heere his habytation for him, and his. He had to wife
Igerna, a woman no doubt of most louely feature, but
of an Improbate or vicious Chastitie. Vether somewhat
oftener for recreation of his minde, repayed Vther, king
of the Brittaines, and surnamed Pendragon: So called
for his Serpentine or subtile wisdom, (as I suppose)
whose friendlie wellwiller Gorloys also was.

Architrenius in his fifth booke (if I count aright) writes
these verses.

Hoc trifido mundum, Corinei postera sole,
Irradiat Pubes, quartio puerpera Phœbi,
Pullulat Arturum, facie dum falso adulter
Tintagol irrumpit, nec amoris Pendragon æstum,
Vincit, & omnificas Merlini consulit artes.
Mentiturq; Ducis habitus & Regelatenti,
Induit absentis presenti Gorlois ora.

*The after coming youth, lightens the world of Coriney
With his three clowd sonne: & she that brought forth at that day
The fourth Phœbus, brought forth Arthur, whilst the adulterer he*

Euen

Vther Pendra-
gon, king Art-
her.

K. Arthure.

*Euen Tintagol so false of face brake in most wickedly.
Neither Pendragon vanquished the flaming fire of Loue,
But Merlius artes so manifold by counsel seekes to proue:
And counterfeites the Dukes attyre (as while the King did glist
Thus) He put on the present face of absent Duke Gorloys.*

Comme, acquaintance, and companying together, doe
sette loue one fire. And because as a certaine Poet sayth
(*Lis est cum forma magna Pudicitiz: that is, Twixt
Comelineffe and Chastitie, greates Debate there seemes to bee.*)
Iust gotte the mastery ouer Igernacs Chastitie: Wher-
vpon also afterwarde Arthure was begotten of her, to-
gether with a beautifull virgin, named Anna. It must not
beere bee omitted whereof Hector Boetius makes relation:
namelie that Vther at length sus Gorloys, as hee was
fighting in the behalfe of Nothaleos Gouernour, agaynst
the Saxones, and soylaken of him, that euen the rather
hee might moze freely obtayne his will of Igerma. But
the name of Arthures is knowne to bee noble with the
Romaines, yea and also famulper amongst them: that from
hence Iuuenall the Poet in his third Satyre writeth these.

*Cedamus Patria, Viuant Arturius illic, & Catulus.
From our Countrie depart let vs: There Arthure liue & Catulus.*
Samuell the British writer describeth the starre Arcturus
so called Per Cappa ad vrsam, alluding, that hee taketh his
name of significatiō thereof from the Greeke Duginal. But
here it ought not to rebounde vnto Arthures pꝛeuidice or re-
pꝛoch, that the father being an adulterer did leaue after him
a sonne bozne to valiant courage, prosperitie, & triumphant
victories: seeing he was not in fault, that he the lesse proceeded
frō lawfull matrimony, seeing that he afterwarde proued
both a valiant and honest person.

*Nam genus & Proauos, & quæ non fecimus ipsi,
Vix ea nostra puto.*

*For kindred & forefathers, eke which we
Haue not begun, I scarce thinke ours to be.*

How greatly also the childe prospered in vertue, it then ap-
peared, what tyme his father (who had flourishd in strength,
Counsell and Iudgements also not without Glozie) de-

Ouid. Epist. 9

Vther Pendragon begat Arthure of Igerma the wife of Gorloys, Gouernour of Cornwall, and also a Virginia named Anna

Originall of Arthurs name

Ouid. 23. lib. Metam. Fabi.

The Assertion of

John Stowe.

Then an ancient Citty, which was neere saint Albones, the foundations where of are yet apparant.

departed out of this life at Verolanium, having obtained befoze, the dignitie Royall vnto his base gotten sonne, because he had none boyne in lawfull matrimony.

CHAP. II. K. Arthures Coronation.

John Stow.

What time Arthur was crowned. A.D. 316.
Grains a writer his testimony.
John Stow.

Two Rulers of the Pictes aspire vnto Arthures kingdom.

Battle and victory ouer Arthur his enemies by Hoel his friend.

The history of Brittain affirmeth that Arthure began his Raigne over the Ilandes of this kingdome in the xv. yere of his age, and was crowned of Dubritius Bishop of the City of Caerlegion vpon Vike in Wales. Joh. banues, & wynter of the golde history seemeth to accounte vps xviii. yeres when Arthure ascended vp to the Royall seate. Scalzcronica, of which booke (as I am moued by coniecture) one Gray, was Authour, doe say, that Arthure receaued the dignitie of his crowne at Venta alias Caerguent now called Winchester. The two rulers of the Pictes and Scots viz. Lotho, vnto whome Anne the sister of Aurelius Ambrosius, king of Brittaines was married, and Conranus, vnto whome Ada the sister of Anne was espoused, began to enuy at the same so ioyfull prosperitie of Arthure: for both of them, but especially Lotho aspyzed vnto the Dominion of Brittain. Whereupon followed afterwarde, that hee ioyning vnto him Osca, otherwise Occa, a most filthy person, made warre against Arthure. At length the matter came to hande stroakes, and the Pict beeing overcome, had the worse successe, partly by the helps or furtherance of the most invincible Hoel, who played the Captaines parte there. The little booke of the Emperre of the Brittaines and English men vpon the Scottes their friendly wellwillers, affirmeth this victorie to bee obtayned at Yorke by the saide Hoel. And that (the Scottes beeing vanquished) Arthure left the auncient Dominions (by petitions beeing so moued) vnder the rule of his friende Augustellus, whom hee made Governour ouer them. Neither did better fortune happen vnto the Saxons: when as Colgrino the Duke was slaine, and Baldricus with Childricke fledde away. After victorie ensued Concord. Lotho

yeelbed

peeled him selfe vnto the Brittaines. Mordred and Galloambicuinus the Sonnes of Lothion by Anne, be-
sought Arthure of fauour & pardon by wonderfull meanes,
and at length were made friendes. In the meane season had
Arthure married Guenhera daughter vnto Cadorus the
Duke of Cornuwall, a woman of rare beawtie. Afterwards
also he subdued vnto him the Saxones with most bloody bat-
tels.

Arthure mar-
ried Guenhera
the daughter
of Cadorus
Duke of
Cornuwall.

CHAP. III.

The XII. Battelles fought by *Arthure*.

Nennius the Brittain a writer of good and auncient
credit, amongst many others maketh most lightsome
mention of his battels: whose wordes although by the ne-
gligence of Printers and inuie of time, they be somewhat
displaced, yet notwithstandinge because they make much
for our present matter, and bring with them a certaine reue-
rent antiquitie, I will here set them downe, and in their
order. Arthure fought in deed against those Saxones, with
the gouernours of the Brittaines, but he himselfe was gene-
rall. The first battell was at the entraunce of the floude,
called Gleyne, alias Gledy. The second, third, fourth, and
fift, was vpon an other floud called Dugles, which is in the
Countrie of Lynieux. The sixt was vpon the floud which
is called Bassas. The seauenth was in the wood Caledon,
that is, Catcoit Celidon. The eight in the Castle of Gwy-
nyon. The ninth was fought in the Cittie of Caerlegion
vpon Vske. The tenth on the Sea shore, which is called Trai-
theurith, otherwile Rhydrwyd. The eleauenth in the hill
which is called Agned Cathregonion. The twelfth in the
Mount Badonis, wherein many were slaine by one assault of
Arthure. Thus farre witnesseth Nennius.

John Stow

10.

11.

12.

Some iudge
this to be
Bathe

John the wri-
ter of the gol-
den history.

Iohannes the wyter of the golden historie ratifyeth the
selfe same truth touching the twelue battels fought against
those Saxones.

Aluredus Fibroleganus the histozeographer also decla-
reth the like.

And so these are the wordes of Henry surnamed of Hun-
tington,

Henry of Hun-
tington.

The Assertion of

King Arthure
Xij times Ge-
neral, and Xij
times Cœque-
rour.

tington in the second booke of his history. Arthure the war-
rier, in those dayes the Captaine generall of soladours, and of
the rulers in Brittain, fought most valiantly against the
Saxons. Twelve times was he generall of the battell, and
twelve times got he the victorie. And there also. But the
battels and places wherein they were fought a certaine histo-
riographer declareth.

John Rhesus a
louer of Anti-
quitie.

Henry of Huntington seemeth here to haue hitte vpon the
brieffe history of Nennius, the name of whose exemplar (as
it seemeth) was not set downe. Whereence came that si-
lence. Perther was that booke common in mens handes at
that time, and in this our age is surely most rare: onely thre
exemplars do I remember that I haue seene. John Rhesus
a loue of Antiquitie, & the same a diligent setter forth there-
of, hath a little booke entituled Gilde, which booke (so farre
as I gather by his speach) had not to Authour Gildas, but
Nennius.

John Stow.

The Elenchus or Registered Table of the librarie at Batle
Abbey, accounteth the historie of Gildas among there trea-
sures, I haue diligently enquired for the booke: but as yet
haue I not found it. The Reposte is, that the exemplar was
translated or carried to Brecknocke there to be kept.

Now must we report the Battels.

John Stow.

What time
Arthure succe-
ded Vther his
Father.

Arthure could
not cleane
roote all the
Saxones out
of Brittain.

The writer of the life of the reuerent Dubritius, Archo-
bishop of the Cittie Caerlegion vpon Vsk, not vnele-
gantly, doth comemozate such like matters. When at length
Aurelius the King was made away by poison, (and that V-
ther, his brother ruled a few yeares) Arthure his Sonne by
the helpe of Dubritius succeeded in gouernement, who with
bold courage set vpon the Saxones in many battels, and yet
could he not vtterly roote them out of his Kingdome. For
the Saxones had subdued vnto them selues the whole com-
passe of the Island which stretcheth from the water of Hum-
ber vnto the Sea Catteneffinum or Scottish Sea. For that
cause the Peares of the Realme being called together, he de-
termined by their counsell what he might best do, against the
ir

eruption of the Pagane Saxones. At length by common counsell he sendeth into Armorica, (that is to say, the lesser Brittaines,) vnto King Hoel his Ambassadors, which aduertised him at full, touching the calamitie of the Brittaines, who comming with fiftene thousand of armed men into Brittaines was honorably entertayned of Arthure, and D. Dubritius: going vnto the Cittie of Lincolne besieged of the Saxones, hauing fought y^e battell, there were six thousand of Saxones which eyther being drowned or wounded with weapons, dyed. But the others flying away vnto the wood of Caledon, being besieged by the Brittaines, were constrained to yeelde themselves: and pledges being taken for tribute yearly to be paid, he gaue them leave with their shippes onely to returne into their Countrie. Afterwardes within a short time the Saxones were ashamed of the league made: and hauing recovered their strength, they made their league as voyde, and besieged the Cittie Badon rounde about, which now is called Bathe: this when Arthure hearde of, hauinge gathered his host together, and beholding the Tenters of his enemies, he spake thus vnto them.

Hoel King of Brittaines aides him with a powe of 15000. men. Lincolne besieged by the Saxones. Their slaughter & fight.

Bath besieged by the Saxons.

Because the most vngodly Saxones, disdaine to keepe promise with me, I keeping faith with my God, will endeavour to be aduenged of them for the blood and slaughter of my Citizens: Let vs therefore manfully set vpon those Traytours whom by the Mediation of Christ out of all doubt we shall overcome with a wished triumphe. And hee rushing vpon the ranches of the Saxones, beinge helped by the prayers of Dubritius in ouerthrowing many thousandes, obtained the victorie: and the felo which fled this garboyle, he caused them to yeelde to his mercy.

K. Arthure seeks to be aduenged of the Saxones. His wordes.

His victorie ouer them.

Boccace in his booke of Lakes and Marishes, thus writeth. Murais that Lake so called famous is, by the victory of Arthure, King of Brittaines: for men say that the Scottes, Pictes and Irishmen being by him besieged, were compelled to yeelde themselves there. The same Authour in his viii. booke of Famous Personages maketh a notable mention of Arthure being moued with a certaine

Boccace mentioneth of Arthure.

Coely

The Assertion of

M. Camden.

Cerdicius the
Saxon helde
warre with
Arthure.

Arth. friendly
to his foe.

William of
Malmesbury

Arthure sore
distressed had
it not bene for
Ambrose a
Romaine.

Gildas.

Adversaries
quarrel against
Arthure.

Godly zeale, to the end he would not with vnthankfull silence ouerpasse, so mightie a personage, and so worthy a man. Neyther here are those thinges which appeare in the Cronicles of a certaine wyter of Digion differing from our purpose. Cerdicius hauing moze often confliet with Arthure, if he were one moneth vanquished, he moze sharply assaulted in another moneth. At length Arthure, with irksome toyle so being alwearied, after the xii yeare of Cerdicius his comynge (by fealtie to him swozne) gaue him the Country Auonia Southwarde, and Somaria : which part Cerdicius called West saxony.

Gulielmus a Medulphi curia both a gallant wyter, and also a learned, and which thing first in his history (he as most faithfull) in his first booke of the Kinges of Britaine mentioneth, bringeth in by the way these testimonies, of Arthure. And now truly had it come to an euill passe with the Brittaines (as he vnderstoode) had not Ambrose one of the Romans bene left aline, (who after Vortigerus, was Monarke or King, with the surpassing exployt of warlike Arthure, repressed the outragious barbarous enemies of the Kingdome.

Howeouer better unto seeme these things to pertaine, which in the fragmentes of Gildas the Brittaines are reade after this manner. The Brittaines like conquerours take courage to them, prouocating their enemies to fight, vnto whom by the Lordes good pleasure the victorie fell euen to their desire. From that time, otherwhiles the Citizens, otherwhiles the enemies got the vpper hand, that in this people it might be approued, how the Lord after his accustomed maner, dealt with this present Israell, and whether he loued the same, yea, or no, euen vnto the yeare of the siege of the mount Badon, and lastly almost of the petty spoylers there, in no little hurlyburly, whereas euen I my selfe was borne. These saith Gildas. Behold the slauderer is now present, and as one cruell of eye sight, requyret a reason of me, why Gildas remembreth not Arthure, if he were then liuing. To these I answered, that I will hereafter speake of Gildas. In meane time the aduersarie calleth to minde, that Gildas when the
battle

bataille was fought at Bathe, was but an Infant: By reason whereof even his Actes done or not done of him, some what slenderly are understood by the aduersarie.

Gulielmus a Medulphi Curia, a little before, beareth so honourable a testimonie of Arthure, that smally it shall differ, whether, if not superiour, yet as equall hee reputed him with Ambrose. But Nennius an Authour of no bad credit, so much perswaded in fauour of Aurelius Ambrosius, as Gildas in the fauour of Arthure: Wh. that leaning out the name of the one, hee might attribute vprightly by iust cause vnto the other all honour, concerning the battle fought at Bathe. But neither doe these alone performe this: There are a number of good authours, which confirme the selfe same matter with a certaine iust Authority. Except in meane time, he be so vnjust a Judge, that he allowe of nothing, bee it neuer so credible, which smelleth not of Tullie or Liuy, when he him selfe in meane time smelleth I knowe not what of Emilius: Which thing shall not displease me, when I shall vnderstand, that hee frankly confesseth this matter. In the meane while I wil recyte the testimony of that Iohn which concerning Arthure write the golden historie. This yeere being the tenth of Cerdicius, king of the West Saxones, did arise Arthure among Brittaines, a most valiant warrior.

William of Malmesboure a friendly writer.

Nennius another.

CHAP. IIII.

K. Arthures expedition towards the French,

The sixte booke of the History of Brittain speakeeth copiously touching things done by Arthure in Fraunce: vnto which countrie he went not, before hee had foze-seene (as it seemed then in deede) with aduised counsell, the immunitie or disburdenance of Brittaines troubles. He had to stephewe one Mordred by name, sonne of Lotho, king of the Pictes & of Anna sister of Aurelius Ambrosius king of Brittain. Vnto this man, because hee was most nearest in bloodde, and familiar in acquaintance, did hee committe all his kingdome, together with Guenhera his most louing wife. So Mordred, in respect of forti-

Mordred Arthure his Nephewe, put in Great trust.

The Assertion of

His vertues
mixt with vi-
ces,

Hoels neece,
viz. Helen,
stolne out of
Armorica.

Arthure reuen-
geth that inju-
ry.

Diuiouensis.

Arth. subdu-
ing Fraunce,
his Nephewe
Mordred in
meane time
betrayeth him
cōfederating
with Cerdici-
us

Anno. 516.
Mordred
crowned.

tude of magnanimitie, was most commendable, and besides this for his quicke and prompt witte, in accomplishing his affayres: which vertues, had hee not obscured with most ardent lust of ruling, and offence of adultery, (but in meane tyme at first kept close for feare) hee had in dede beene worthy to haue bene accounted amongst the most famous personages. Nowe had Arthure entered into Fraunce, and the Gouvernoys being subdued, hee had left a notable testimony of his prowesse there. Behold, now cometh a savage Tyraunt, cruell and fierce, who had rauished Helen the neece of Hoel of Armorica, or the lesse Brittain (stolen away and brought out of Brittain) at the coaste of Fraunce, and where vpon she died. Arthure could not take well this so heynous a reproach done vnto Helen, and straight way gotte the Tyraunte by the throte, that hee utterly destroyed this greate and horrible monster. And not longe after did Hoel cause to be erected a sacred Tombe for Helen in the Islande where she died, and a name fitly given vnto the place where Helens Tombe was made, which serueth even till this daye. The Cronicles of the wyter of Digion in Burgonie, doe with greate commendation extolle Arthure warring in Fraunce, by these like wordes.

Arthure for nine yeeres space, subdued Fraunce vnto him, hauing betaken his kingdoms and Queene vnto Mordred his Nephew. But he desiring ambitiously to raigne (yet fearing only Cerdicius) gaue him, to the end hee should fauour his doinges, seauen other prouinces. viz. Sudo Saxony or Southser, Sudorheia or Southerp, Berrochiam or Barckeshyre: Vilugiam or Wiltshier: Duriam or Dorsetshire: Denoniam or Deuonshier: and Corineam Cornwale. And Cerdicius cōsenting vnto these (seeing for þe englishmen) restored his prouinces, and was crowned after the manner of the countrie at Wintchester. But Mordred was crowned ouer the Brittaines at London. And so Cerdicius, whē he had raigned three yeeres, died, while Arthure yet remained amongst the French: vnto whome Kintichus succeeded. In the seauenty yeeres of whole Raigne Arthure

thure, returned into Englande. Thus farre out of the Cronicles. These which I haue nowe recited, haue not onely their antiquitie, but also credite, and with a certaine circumstance are consonant to the History.

And that I may somewhat more friendly speake in fauour of Arthures Triumphes ouer the French, there are (besides these) many thinges, which I with a certaine zeale doe omitt altogether. But yet, that must I as it were touch by passing ouer the rest: viz. that it is manifest by the inscription of Arthures greate Seale (concerning which wee will in place conuenient speake circumspectly) that he was made famous by the surname of a French man. And neither was this bonne without manifest occasion, at any time. For, as touching the Antiquytie and euen most sure knowledg of the Seale, so euidently, I doubt not, but that I may assuredly beleue (so their appearz vpight Judges heerein, and which are skilfull in auncient monumentes) that I shall proue by notable reasons, the same was proper, peculier and naturall, and proceeding from the workemaster. But these thinges more rightly appeare in there place. I will at this instant onely hereto adioyne one Valerius, which remembeth vs of thirtie kingdomes vanquished by Arthure. For in those dayes a greate company of Gouvernours helde vnder their Iurisdiction the Islands together with Fraunce and Germany.

Valerius reporting that K. Arthure vanquished 30. kingdomes.

CHAP. V.

K. Arthures Familier Cheualyers, or knightes.

Some man woulde peraduenture heere looke for, that I shoulde also with a mightie praise blaze on the victories of Arthure, touching which the historie of Brittain reporteth. Historiographers doe contend in this behalfe, and the controuersie, as yet resteth vnder the Judge. But I will declare nothing rashly: For so much as it appeareth most euidently, that both obscure and absurde reportes haue crept into the historie of Arthure: which thing is

The Assertion of

of the curious toytz easily found faulte with. But this in
deede is not a cause sufficient iust, why any man should
neglect, ablect, or deface the Historie otherwise of it
selfe, lightsome and true. Woloe much better is it (cast-
ing away trifles, cutting off olde wines tales, and su-
perfluous fables, in deede of statelly portre in outwarde
shew, but nothing anayleable vnto credite, beeing taken
away) to reade, scanne vpon, and preserue in memo-
rie those thinges which are consonant by Autho:ptie. For,
that which nowe a long time is embraced of Learned men
with greate consent: ought not in what soeuer moment of
tyme barking against it, together with faith or credite there-
of, to be quite taken away.

Otherwise the Historie had not hetherto remained in
so greate reputation. Therefore, because it is a worke
of greater importaunce, then wee presentlie are in hande
with, exquisitely, curiously and perfectlie to displaye
all the deedes of Arthure: let vs for this season omitte the
Romaines, and let vs aduance with penne his famy-
lier friendes. Hoelus Governour of Armorica, or the
lesse Brittain in this famous company of Nobles, by a
certaine right of his, requyrez the next place from the
first: Concerning whose coming into Brittain, and war-
like prowesse, we haue formerly written in the chapter of
the warres accomplished by Arthure.

Vetherunto ensewe Mordred and Gallouinus, Bre-
thren Germaines vnto Arthure by bloodde and famili-
arity alyed. Of which two, this first at length, like a per-
iured persō and the same a Reuolter neuer enough discom-
mendable (that I speake nothing of the crime of his adulte-
ry) was slayne in battle. One Hector Abrinus beeing
thereof scarce a true witnesse, and as I gather with iudge-
ment, moze rightly surnamed Alaunicus. But the second, be-
ing alwaies a man constant, persourmed most faithfull ob-
ligence both in all soyraine warres, and also specially in that
conflict at Dorchester, aboute the returne of Arthure out
of Fraunce into Brittain, who was chiefe next vnto
him against Mordred. Melchinus the Wyttis Wort
blazeth

K. Arthures
knights of his
round Table.

Hoel the first
knight.

Gallouinus the
second knight

blasphemeth the same of Gallouinus. The same doth Iohannes Anneuillanus in his booke intituled Architrenio a worke not vnelegant, namely by these verses.

Two writers
aduancing
the fame of
Gallouinus.

Et Walganus ego qui nil reminiscor auara
Illoculasse manu: non hæc mea fulgurat auro,
Sed gladio dextra: recipit, quo spargat, & enses;
Non loculos stringit, nec opes: in carcere miles
Degener & cupide, tumulato rusticus ære,
Et me bella vocant Et tua forsitan vrget
Solicitude: vale.

*And Walgan I with conetous hand nought distribute which haue
This my right hād shines not with gold but with the sword so brane
It takes that it may distribute, euen swordes not bagges it bendes,
Nor wealth, though I a Knight distrest, yet not vnttrue to friendes,
Ne yet in countrie liued I like a conetouse mucke scrape:
But now the warres away call me vnto my wanted state,
And tbine affaires also,
Perhappes vrge the thereto: Farewell.*

Also that History of Arthure, in deede Fabulus (which commonly is carried about written in the mother tongue) affirmeth that Gallouinus was buried in a certaine Chappell at Dorchester. In which poynt what manner booke soeuer it be, it misseth not the marke altogether, as the booke entituled Scalacronicon makes manifest relation: and y^e inhabitantes of y^e Castle do now repute his bones almost Gyantlike in stead of a miracle. And that long since in the time of Lucius Magnus there was a Chappell founded in the Castle of Dorchester and dedicated vnto our Lord and Saviour Christ: what time Eupatius and Damianus Brittaines preached the Gospell as by the *Annales* or yearly recordes of the same Citie (bearing a reuerēt figure & resemblance of Antiquitie) it both plainly appeare. That it may be most acceptable, and besides that most true which I haue above inferred, touching both the death and buriall of Gallouinus: it shall not through me stand, that the iudgement of William de Medulphi Curia as touching the death and buriall of this Gallouinus (by reason of his fortitude neuer

Gallouinus
buried at Dor-
chester.

His bones Gi-
antlike.

Accordinge to
the record of
Gloucensbury

the names are
Fagarius and
Diruianus.

This Lucius
being created
the first Chri-

stian King in
England liued
about the yere

after Christ 182
William of
Malmesbury

his iudgment
of Gallouinus.

The Assertion of

enough commended) Should either we are out of memory or
utterly perished. Wherefore, I esteeme it worthy the labour
here to sette downe his wordes out of the third booke of the
Kinges of England that herebence the discrete Reader
might euen fully try as it were at a touchstone the lineers
brightnesse of true gold, from that which is counterfeit.

His wordes of
reporte.

Then in the Province of Wales which is called Rossia
was founde the Sepulchre or Tombe of Gallouinus or
Walwine, which was the Nephewe not degenerate of Ar-
thure, by his sister. He gouerned (in that Coast of Brittain
which to this day is called Walunthia) as a knight most fa-
mous in prowesse: but being (of his brother, and the Nephew
to Hengistus concerning whom I haue spoken in the first
booke) driven out of his Kingdome, did first to their great
betrimment recompere his banishment, wisely pertaking praise
with his Anckle, for that he put off or auoyded the downe-
fall from his Country then ruinouse. But Arthures Tombe
was at no time scene, whereupon Antiquitie of foolish
dreames and fables, did vainely surmise that he would yet
come againe. But the burying place of the other (as before
I set down in the time of William the first King of Englad)
was found fourtene foote long vpon the Sea coast, where (as
some men affirme) he was wounded of his enemies and cast
out of shipwreake: certaine persones haue saide, hee was
slaine by the Citizens at publique banquet. So saith the
Authour Gulielmus Meildunensis, as concerning Gallo-
uinus. But I (if it might bee lawfull for me as a puny)
would make tryall of my strength wth these weapons, against
this authour Meildunensis so olde and most beaten Doubt-
er, to bestow & beare of the blowes. viz. It is not like to be
true, that men of Gyantlike height (as I gather by 8 grans
14. foote long) were then liuing in the dayes of Gallouinus.
Wherefore vndoubtedly in mine opinion it is more credible
that it was the grave of some Gyant inhabitinge the coun-
trie. For that first such did inhabit Albion, it appeareth both
by antiquitie of sovraine and of our owne writers. The one
of which two his credit I folow, namely Iosephus of De-
uonshire a Wyttish Poet, most absolutely elegante by all
means.

The manner
of Gallouing
his death, after
the reporte of
W. Malmsh.

William of
Malmshury.

John Leylands
opinion to the
contrarie.

His prooff out
of a british
Poet named
Iosephus.

meanes, (having taken out of his Antiocheides a trok in
mostall, these few verses) I will ble them as testimony for
byenitie sake.

His Brutus auito

Sanguine Troianus, Latij's egressus ab oris
Post varios casus confedit finibus, orbem
Fatalem nactus, debellatorque Gigantum,
Et terræ Victor nomen dedit.

*A Trojan Brute by auncient bloude, arined fro Romane roads
After sundry hazardes, and, here in these coastes aboade
And hauing got his destned land, subdued the Gyants fell
As Conquerour he left his fame upon the earth to dwell:
Architrenius in his first booke of Gyantes inhabiting Albi-
on recyteth these.*

Hos audum belli Corinei robor auerno
Præcipites misit: cubitis ter quatuor altum.

*Gogmagog Herculea suspendit in ære lucta,
Anthemque suum scopulo, detrusit in æquor.
These Corineus his pyssant strength (of eager moode to fight)
To bell sent headlong: Gogmagog of twelue cubites height,
By him (like Hercules wrastling) into the aire was throwne
His Anthenscke and from the rocke in seas was cast adowne.*

Neyther am I ignorant that in times past there was on
þ sea shoare a Castle called Galouine, touching which
the Authour Meildunensis as aboue hath written: whose
foote-steppes are as yet apparant. But that was not the ha-
bitation of the Gyant, as neyther perhappes of that Galo-
uine of Arthures, but of some latter byegerent bearing the
same name. But þ which he mentioneth of Arthures Tombe
at that time, is most true. No one man more curiously sear-
ched soth, at any time all the treasures of the library at Gla-
senbury. This onely was here wanting in him towarde
knowledge, that he dying about the first yeare of the Raigne
of Henry þ second King of England, knew nothing of Ar-
thurs tombe. For so much as þ same tombe was found after-
wards in þ beginning of þ raigne of K. Richard coeur de ly-
on. But I returne to William Meildunensis into sauiour,
out

William of
Malmsbury a
most curious
and painful
searcher of
Antiquitie.

William of
Malmsbury.

The interpre-
tation of Gal-
loninus his
name.

Augufellus
the third
knight.

John Stow.
An auncient
Cittie in Kent
nere Sandwich
the ruins of it
yet remaine
The Prowesse
and valiant ad-
uenture of
him, one Grai-
us a writer
witnesseth.

John Stowe.

out of the which as yet I haue not openly fallen: By whome
a man as in his age most learned in all kind of Good letters,
and of singular wit, diligence and care in searching forth An-
tiquitie, I confesse and in deede that franchly must affirme
my selfe to haue bene oftentimes helped in the knowledge
of Antiquitie. Vndoubtedly it is a poynte of honestie to ac-
knowledge by whom a man profiteth. It liketh me well,
here, vnto the conclusion to adde the notation which I my
selfe gather of the name of Gallouinus out of the Brittish
language. Walle signifieth straungers or walsh. Guin, Al-
bum, or white. Like as if a man by this phrase would de-
scribe a comely, elegant and beautifull personage: except a
man moze rightly thinke that he tooke his originall from the
Saxonish rude language, as Walwine signifieth Gallus A-
micus, Leoffwyn Charus Amicus, and Aldwyne Vetus
Amicus.

Now approacheth Augufellus, of whom we haue aboue spo-
ken a selue wordes. Who was in so seruent favour with Ar-
thure, that hee was deservingly made a beneficiall Couer-
nour ouer the Scottes. This man rendered like for like.

Being sent for amongst many other Princes to the end he
might performe him selfe a companion with Arthure
in his expedition towardes Fraunce, so farre refused hee not
his enioyned charge, that with greate example of valiance
there manifested, and reforming home on the Coast of Rich-
borow with much moze prowesse, (Mordred beinge ouer-
come in ciuil wars and there put to flight) he falling amongst
the Hostes with bloud & lyfe endaungered, valiantly beha-
ued himselfe: as þe Authour of those bookes Schalechronica
(one Grayius as I suppose) is none euil witnesse at al there-
of. And because touching the chusing out, or election of those
Princes (vnto Arthure beinge obedient) we haue formerly
made promise: it auaieth here to signifie that there were ma-
ny & notable elections, not spoken of by him. But that was
most notable of all, which appeared in Isca or Exceter othe-
wise in the Cittie of Caerlegion, or Chester vpon Vske.
What time it was proclaimed vnto wars against þe French.
But what haue the Muses to do with Mars? vndoubtedly.
cyther

either little or nothing. And yet if there were a last familiarity betwene them, they shoulde rather wish well vnto Mars, that for his sake they might deservingly geue Arthure greate thanks, who either restored or instituted a Learned Quier of Ecclesiasticall persons in the saide citie of Caerlegion: if Geoffrey of Munmouth, Iohn Burgensis, and Rosius Verouicensis declare the trueth. This in meane time appeareth plaine by the historie of Anonimus the writer, that Amphibalus, Iulius, & Aaron a martyres did worship Christ, and also had learning in estimation, in the saide citie of Caerlegion or Chester vpon Vske. From whome agayne credible it is that others receiued the same letters fro hand to hande. There is also (if we may beleue credible repozte) in the treasures at Cambridge at this daye, a Table of the priuiledge by Arthure sometime confirmed to the surderace of stubits. But as yet haue I not searched out the credite of this deede.

Iderus sometime a speciall fauourer of K. Arthures court comes now to the number of those Cheualyers. This man being neare alyed in blood vnto Arthure, performed many valiant examples of prowesse, and continually did cleaue to his Princes side. And at length, by what hap I knowe not, (hee dying,) left a speciall welwishing vnto Arthure: who also carefully accomplished his funerall at Aualonia. I haue reade at Glaffenburie a little booke of the antiquities thereof, gathered very diligently by a certaine sponcke of that place: In which booke he declareth many thinges of Arthures good will towarde this man departed: and of his liberalitie or beneficiall goodnesse (for his same his cosens sake) bestowed vpon religious persons there inhabiting. Of late there did hang a Table at a pilloze within the Church of Glaffenburie, which accounted Iderus amongst the Benefactors and restorers of the Church at Glaffenburie. Lancelot a man most famous requieth place euen amongst his most excellent Cheualyers to be giuen him. Vnto which desire I easily graunt as one ready to speake this in his commendation: that hee was a certaine vpright and faithfull friende of Arthures, his balancy appeared largely at the battle which

Writers.
Geoffrey of
Mumouth.
Iohn of Bo-
row.
Rosius of
Warwicke.
Anonimus a
writer.

Iderus the 4
knight, neare
of blood vnto
Arthure.

His benefice
towards the
Church at
Glaffenbury.
Lancelot the
fifth knight.

A faithfull
friend and val-
iant aduenger
of iniury done
by Mordred yn
to Arthure.
Syluester Giral-
dus his testi-
monie of his
buriall at Glas-
tenburie.
Caradocus &
sixte knight
Whose fame
the Cronicles
at Dorcester
extoll.

Cadorus the 7.
knight, of the
most noble
progenie of
the kinges of
England.

A stoute deff-
ender & preser-
uer of his princes
dignitie.

Constantine
his sonne suc-
ceeded Arth.

Gildas his testi-
mony of Con-
stantine a de-
generate child
a murderet of
Innocent.

was fought betweene Mordred the traytor and Arthure.
He liued in deede after the battle, as I reade once or twice,
conueyed vnto Guenhera (mourning at Arthures death)
the bodie from Ambersburie vnto Glastenburie. But Gy-
raldus seemeth sincerely to attribute his buriall in one place
or other at Glastebury, as in his Speculo Ecclesiastico: & in
his worke De Institutione Principis, appeareth. Although
it rather seemeth to me in mine opinion y he took his first
tombe at Ambersburie. Caradocus a name of noble pro-
fesse martiall, followed Arthure in his expedition towardes
Fraunce. And returning homeward was slaine, as it see-
meth on the coast of Richborowe, in the ciuill battle. The
Cronicles of the porte of Dorcester, a worke sanouring of
antiquitie makes mention of Caradocus. The inhabitants
of the Castle there euen at this day after a sorte renewe the
memorie of Caradocus, affirming that they haue in their
Custodie I knowe not what Lynementes of his. And
not so contented, they sette south Arthures Courte, and
Guenheras lodging. Nowe ruffeth in the number and
traîne of Arthures noble warriors. But I. (so y it be done
without offence to them, because I haue onely taken vpon
me to name the most excellentest of them and to praise them)
haue purposed to overpasse the residue, yet other wise prais
worthy, and last of all to aduoyne that Cadorus of Corne-
wale. Hee was of the most noble progeny of the kinges of
Brittaine, and gouerned the people in the Mountayny sayles
of Cornwale, Doubtedly he was a stoute defender of
his princes dignitie and had perpetuall familiaritie with
the Brittaines. At length when hee dyed, hee left af-
ter him a sonne named Constantine: (who after the
Death of Arthure) was made Ruler ouer Brittaine.
Hee. (to the ende they following their fathers example
in times passe shoulde not aspyre vnto the kingedome)
caused the sonnes and Supporsers of Mordred the traytor
and Nephewes of Gallouinus to be slaine with the sword.
But either this fact or the like doth Gildas the Brittaine
shewe in these wordes. Of which so wicked amischiefes
Constantine the Tyrants uncleane whelp of Damons
was

was not ignorant, who this peere after y^e horrible oth made, from which he againe swarued (that he would not worke any iniuries vnto the Citizens, swearing first by God, then by the mother of Chyist, and therewith taking all the companies of holy ones to witnesse) did notwithstanding by bloodie swoord and speare rush into the tender brests of two mothers and cruelly perced the bowelles or intrayles of two princelie yowthes, vnder y^e same religious Amphibalus & of so many ouerseers euen standing at y^e very Alter, whose armes (being without armour which no one man at y^e tyme more valiantlier vsed then they) hee cruelly cut off euen standing at the Alter, and with his speare violently toare them in peeces. But they shall crie for reuenge vnto God, before the high throne of his Maestie in the day of iudgement and at the Gates of the city (Wh Chyist) shall they hange vpon their rent, rend banners of patience and of faith. Whereto haue we spoken of his knyghtes or Cheualyers.

CHAP. Vj.

K. Arthures Rounde Table.

NOWE is there very conuenient place to bringe in amongest other thinges, a selue, but chosn, excellent, finally magnificent testimonies of Arthures round table and of his good cheare. Vnto these had not all noble men access: But onelie they, viz

Lucida quos ardens euexit ad æthera Virtus,

Virtus sola virens nullis moritura diebus.

Whom Vertue cleere aduanced to the skies,

Euen Vertue alone which flourishing neuer dies.

THIS stately sturre (as they say) he somewhat more often solemnized. But specially in the citie of Caerlegion, or Chester vpon Vske which place he notably esteemed of. The same did he at Venta Simenorum alias Winchester, & at Camalet in Somersetshire. The common vblearned sort of wyters supposeth, that Venta to bee called by another name, that is to saye, Camelet. But I passe not vpon the iudgement of the common sort. The publike

John Stow
Vnto places
where K. Arth.
kept his round
table.

The Assertion of

On this side
Somertō neare
vnto Glasten-
bury is the vil-
lage Sutton &
Camelet an
old forte.
K. Arthure in-
habited a ca-
stle at Somertō

repaste of them which dwelt at the lowermost parte of the hill Cancaletum, or an olde forte, is, that Murotrigum or the Towne now called Somerton, spreadeth, aduanceth, and solemnely setteth forth the fame of Arthure sometime inhabiting the Castle. Which Castle of olde time was both most stately and also most strongly builded, and in a most high or lofty prospect. Good Lorde, what and howe many most deepe Ditches are there heere? How many ballies are there heere out of the earth delued? Againe what daungerous steepenesse? And to end in fewe words, truly me seemeth it is a miracle, both in Arte and nature.

At seges est ubi Troia fuit stabulantur in vrbe,

Et fossis pecudes altis, valloq tument

Taurus, & altitx posuere Cubilia vulpes.

But come there is where Troy did stand, & cattle there abound,
Scalld in towne with ditches deepe, in trench mounting fro ground,
There few trees grow, & subtle Foxes made their cabins round.

Ad in deede this is the interchaunge of humane at-
tapes. Wherehence had Ilcester that auncient Towne
this calamitie. Whereupon both the custumary traffique there
beholde the cleere wel spring with heauie eyes, and weepe
their fill. Where the inhabitants plow the ground, and euery
yeere finde by seeking for them, Golden, Silver, and Walsen
peeces of money, expressing the images not very liuely of the
Romanes. Wherof even I my selfe haue had a fewe giue mee
of those inhabitants. Francis Lord Hastings Earle of Hu-
tington an excellēt ornamēt of those noble youtthes about the
king of Englañ, & sometimes my benefactor in good learning,
as heire of p Piperells, Bottrells, & of the Hūgerfordes, hath
in his possession the ruined old cotages of Camelet, together
with p large grounds adiacēt. Iohānes Anneuillanus p writ-
ter in his Architreus extollet Arthurs rounde table for
p excellēcy therof. The same doth Volateranus in his thirde
booke of Geography, in these wordes. He also being plen-
tiful at home, vsed amōgest his nobles a rōūde table that
there should be no cōtētiō, through ambitiō for seates.
At Vēta Symeno alias Winchester in p castle most famous
knowne

Iohannes An-
neuillanus, a
writer, extol-
leth K. Arth.
round table.

knowne, standeth fixed & table at the walle side of þe kinges
 Hal, which (for þe maiesty of Arthure) they cal þe round table.
 And wherfore? Because neyther the memoie nor felowship
 of the round Trowpe of knightes as yet falles out of
 noble mens mindes, in the latter age of the woold. King
 Edward surnamed the longe, as same telleth, made much of
 that rounde order of knightes. To those uses was the round
 table instituted and framed, (if it be worthie of credit) and
 that it was with three feet made of perfect gold. There bee
 which write that one Mortimar by name, spent and consu-
 med away those treasures. That thing yet by the way is
 most certaine out of the historie of Thomas Vicanus, that
 Roger Mortimer halde a very great feast or banquette at
 Kenelworth, whether as he of noble minde sent for most ex-
 cellentest Cheualiers, or knightes, as it had beene vnto Ar-
 thures round table of knightes: Whereupon were very many
 tokens of knightly prowesse set forth in deede: which the di-
 ligent posteritie shal with great desire reade expressed in wy-
 singes. But now so long a while, from this Cheualrie of
 Arthure and his frayne, I passe over to his godly disposition.

K. Arthures
 round table
 where it stan-
 deth.

K. Edward the
 first made
 much of that
 round order of
 knightes in
 his time.

Roger Mort-
 mer, solem-
 nished the
 same order at
 Kenelworth.

CAP. VII.

King Arthures Godly Disposition.

With how greates and how sincere deuotion hee was
 enclyned towards the Christian Common wealth,
 it appeareth plainly by the auctoritie of auncient writers.
 He vsed the familiaritie of Dubritius Bisshope of the Cittie
 of Caerlegion or Chester vpon Vske, a man both of singu-
 lar learning and also of continencie in life: so farre forth that
 he thowly felt as victor in the battel at Bathe, his prayers a-
 waylable. Furthermoze David Meneuensis a man no doubt
 of exquisite holynesse, as then felt both the fauour and libe-
 rallitie of Arthure: so farre forth that the people Me-
 neuenses, report the Bisshoppes sea to haue bene by them re-
 ceued as by Arthures meanes translated from the Cittie of
 Caerlegion or Chester vpon Vske vnto them. Ilutus
 a man of incomperable lyfe being companion of these two,

Two Bisshops
 religious fa-
 uourers of K.
 Arthures wel-
 fare.

Of S. David.

Ilutus a God-
 ly and learned
 father an other
 religious fa-
 uourer of Ar.

The Assertion of

bearing of that singular magnificence of his, & zeale towardes
 God, was bolde (as the letter forth of his life writeth) not
 onely face to face to goe see Arthure, but also to salute
 him and haue communication with him. Through which
 (in deede boldnesse) much lesse offended he the Prince seeing
 that he both gaue him very greate thanks and also an ho-
 nest rewarde. Arthure (if auncient writers and constant
 fame do repoze the truth) had depainted in his partiall tar-
 get, the similitude of the virgin Mary: which target he vsed
 in many battels, and specially in that battell at Bathe. In
 such tryding matters I do not much force to write. But by
 the way, that is not a thing vnworthy to be heard of the god-
 ly, which Samuel the wyter of Brittain, and Disciple of
 Elbodus the Bishoppe, (who flourished about nyne hun-
 dret yeares agoe) thus maketh mention of, concerning Ar-
 thures expedition or rather peregrination. Arthure went
 vnto Ierusalem when as he tooke with him the signe of the
 Crosse of wood in memory of his Saviour, whereof the frag-
 mentes are at this day reserved in Wedale a towne of Lodo-
 neia, six miles from Mailros. Finally he exceedingly effe-
 med of those Church men at Glastenbury, as partly I haue
 aboue saide in Ibero, and as I will here moze largely shew.
 Siluester Gyraldus in his booke De Institutione Principis
 thus wyrteth. For aboue all the Churches in his King-
 dome he fauoured and beare best good will vnto the Church
 of our Lady S. Mary at Glastenbury, and with greater de-
 uotion aduanced the same befoze other Churches. Poli-
 dorus (according to his equitie and iudgment, and so farre
 as his authoritie serueth him) declareth there was no spo-
 nasterie at Glastenbury, in Arthures tyme: So exquisite
 a iudge is he of Antiquitie and specially concerning Brit-
 taine. He also contendeth that euen all the whole worlde by
 this rule (but in deede a most vniuersall rule) is constrained to
 embrace, maintaine, and beleue that which is spoken of
 him touching Antiquitie, as that which is pronounced for an
 Oracle. To that he saith and writeth in truth, will I as Vir-
 gill saith. Ense leuis nudo parmaque inglorius alba. What
 is, (With naked sword and slender bright shelds without boar-
 ding)

K. Arthure his
 iourney to Je-
 rusalem.

His zeale & spe-
 ciall good will
 towardes the
 Church men
 of Glastenbury

John Layland
 a bearer with
 Polidorus.

King easily defend his authoritie and iudgment so auncient. But what he falsly or vntruly declareth, (which thing he doth somewhat oftener through all partes of his *History*) I may not heare with all, I can not abide it, neyther will I suffer it, but the truth, (so much as it shall stand me vpon) will I restore to her comelynesse, fame, and gloze, as one cheerefull and nothing fearefull in so doing, though the enemies of truth hurt them selues with inwards mallice. For, vnto this most honest opinion that I should couragiously cleaue in this behalfe, the thing done by these two *Apoles* of the Brittaines, namely *Fugatus* and *Danius*, and the *Epistle* of *Patritius* the great which I haue in my custody confirming the same (to omit for breuitie sake the testimonies of many others) do will me, or rather commaund me. *Henry Plantagenet* (the nephew of *Henry Beauchampe* King of England by the daughter of *Mathilda*) affirmeth, by precept and manifest wordes in a certaine deede of gift, that he saw, (and that it should not want vpright credit) that hee read the covenants and articles concerning a certaine beneuolence of *Arthures*, extended towardes the religious persons inhabiting *Aualonia*. But I will hereunto annex the very wordes of *King Henrys* gift, out of the originall deede.

Moreover what thinges so euer haue beene giuen me from my Predecessors, *William* the first, *William* the second, and *Henry* my Vnckle: Yea of their Ancestors, namely of *Edgar* the father of *Sir Edward* of *Edmond*, and of his father *Edward*, and of *Eufred* the Grandfire of the same, of *Brinwalchius*, *Kenwinnus*, *Balwredus*, *Ina*, *Cuthredus*, and of *Arthure*, and many other Christian Kinges. And also of *Kenwalchius* the Pagan King, whose priuileges and writings I haue diligently caused to be searched and to be preſented & read in my presence. Thus far the deed of gift. If these witnesses of sure credit make not sufficient for most apparant knowledge of the truth, surely there can nothing at any time anaylably serue. For not to be satisfied with these being receyued and knowen at full, is neyther the parte of a wise head, no no; yet of a good iudgment.

So farre as he brings forth the truth, and other wise his enemy,

Alias Paganus and Druidianus.

This was king Henry the 2.

Sonne of Geoffrey plantagenet, brother to king Henry the first succeeding him. An.

1154. reigned

3. yeares. 9. monethes. &

12. dayes, and was buried of

Founteuersard in Fraunce

Wordes contained in king

Henry the 2.

his deede of gift proceeding

from king

Arthures beneuolence to-

wardes the

Church men at

Aualonia,

The Assertion of
CAP. VIII.
King Arthures Seale.

He meaneth
Robert Carr
who translated
the history of
K. Arthure.

K. Arthures
Seale kept at
Westminster
in Iohn Ley-
landes dayes.

His reporte in
praise thereof,
describing the
properties

And because I haue againe entred into the Mysterie of
sacred Antiquitie and am descended a curious searcher
into the bowels thereof. it liketh me to bring forth to light
an other matter, namely Arthures Seale, a monument most
cunningly engrauen, ancient, and reuerent. Concerning
which, Caxodunus maketh mention, yet briefly and scien-
terly in his preface to the history of Arthure: which the com-
mon people readeth printed in the English tongue. Being
moued with the testimony of Caxodunus whatsoever it
were, I went vnto Westminster, to the end that what so
as an eare witness I had heard, I might at length also as an
eye witness behold the same. Pondering well that sayings
of Plautus, in my minde. *Pluris ualeat sculatus testis unius quam
Auritis decem.*

Of more force standes eye witness one,

Then ten eare witnesses among.

The keeper of those secretes being requested of mee to shew
me this monument, by and by deliuered it both to bee seene
and handled. The sight of the Antiquitie pleased me at full,
and for a long time the spaciouse thereof not onely drew a-
way but also detayned myne eyes from me to the beholding
thereof. Of such force it is for a man aptly to chaunce vpon
a thing with greate care desired. The substance which
tooke the most lyuelyest figure of Arthure imprinted vpon
the Seale, (and which as yet doth firmly keepe the same
still) is ware of redde coloure, which by some mishape, or in-
iury of long time perished, is crazed here & there into peeces.
But so yet notwithstanding as no part of it is altogether lac-
king. For the fragments or litle peeces thereof being be-
fore time by some mischance crazed, are so closed up toge-
ther with silver plates which is of rounde forme, such as is
the vpper side of the Seale, that no parte of them may fall
off. For vpon the vpper side of this seale it is thus engraued
with these breefe, but in very deepe most excellent, most
haute, and most magnificent tytles, What is to say.

PATRICKIUS ARTURIUS BRITANNIE,
GALLIA, GERMANIA, DACIA IMPER-
TOR. And of truely this inscription circlethe the outermost
 compass of the Seale. The former parte thereof is most
 bright shining by a circle of christall, which being taken off,
 freightway may any man touch the war, which by reason of
 the Antiquitie is most harde. But the Portraiture of Ar-
 thure printed thereupon, resemioleth I wotte neare what
 Veroricall Portraiture. For the Prince as it were inuested
 with purple, royally sitteth vpon a halfe circle, such one as
 we see the raine boe is. Wearing a crowne vpon his heade he
 shineth like the sunne. In his right hand riseth vp a scepter
 wrought with a Flowerdeluce at the toppe: And his left
 hand holdeth a globe adozned with a crosse. His bearde al-
 so groweth comely, large, and at length, and even that is a
 maiestie. The other side of the Seale is altogether covered
 ouer with a thinn plate of Silver. By meanes wherof
 also it is vncertaine of what fashien it is. There hangeth
 downe at the same a string chaine fashienlike twisted of Sil-
 uer. Certes Reader, I pray God I be deade but thou woul-
 dest desire to see the same, such and so greate is both the anti-
 quitie and also the maiesty of the thing. At length the keeper
 of those secretes was there requested by me to signifie vnto
 me, if he had learned any thing ouer and besides this, as
 touching the seale hanging thereat. For, amongst very ma-
 ny ornaments which glittering with Gold & pzeious stones
 did adozne the tombe of Edward the Simple, King of Eng-
 land, even this also was worthy of memorie. But he coulde
 say nothing to these demaundes sauing onely this, that hee
 thought the same was by y^e king laid in y^e place to y^e perpetu-
 all memoire of the most high and mighty prince Arthure.
 Surely if a man might lawefully by any coniectures gather
 and set downe the truely in writing, I would not thinke that
 such a seale had benze translated from Glastenburie: vpon
 which monastery (by misfortune of fire most filthily debased)
 the most bountifull prince bestowed such rewarde, as hee
 for his excellent godlines might more easily giue, then those
 mockes might hope for. K. Henric himselfe as I haue aboue
 mentioned

The Insculp-
 ture of K. Arth-
 Seale and the
 Inscriptio ther
 of,

K. Arthures
 maiestie repre-
 sented on the
 seale.
 Nota.

The seale, one
 of the orna-
 ments which
 were about y^e
 tombe of K.
 Edward the
 simple.

It was transla-
 ted from Glas-
 tenbury to
 Westminster.

The Assertion of

mentioned, made testimony of Arthures free gift, and so farre forth as he both saue and read the same. By meanes whereof also it might come to passe, that the parchmient beeing eaten out with little woꝛmes, and meathes by long tract of time, so famous a monument of antiquitie being founde, he deliuered the same to the Monasterie of first same, there to be kept safe, and to be seene so ever of the nobylitie in all posterities. Certes (except my coniecture faileth me) the expences or charge is small in deede, yea, none at all. This yet in the meane time please me, that while we intreate of Arthure and of things done by him, Glaffenbury is alwaies at hand and most friendly promisseth his endenour towarde assured knowledge of things. From whence in deede all the fruite of our labour at this present is to be fetcht, as it were from a most plentiful running fountaine. Neither surely is there any thing apparant, (that I doe knowe of) which moze evidently approueth that Arthure was living, the the same Seale doth. Which thing, if God so would, some persons (leaning rather to their opinion, selfe will, and finally rashnesse, then vnto any byright reason) doubt not to deny. But after this we will chuse a place, wherein by full & whole abundance of argumentes, wee may ouerthrowe the violent rabble of slanderers. In the meane season we must moze subtilly discusse the inscription of the Seale. For, this hath her misteries, which when they shall receiue light, shall both with greater pleasure, and also apter grace fill the eares of honest readers, and being filled shall wonderfully delight the: which thing is worth the trauell, & that in deede largely.

The name PATRICIUS, is taken as from the maiestie of the Romans. The noble men of Rome are called by that name. viz. such as are come of the firste Senatours: That seemeth Tacitus to signifie by these wordes. In those dayes Cesar tooke into the number of noble men, every one most auncient of the Senate, or which were of noble personage. Liuius makes this metiō. Romulus created 100. Senatours, which were called Patres or Fathers, by reason of honor done to the & also Patricij or noble men by reason of their progeny. Therefore it is euident that Arthure receiued that same noble

He meaneth either the records there, as Chronica Glesoburgensis, either els Patricius Glesoburgensis.

Patricius whence it hath originall.

Patres & Patricij why so called.

table

table fame of his name from his parentes and Auncesters. Whereupon also it appeareth that as yet, the glory of Romane Paestie (translated or applyed vnto the Brittaines, in their titles) waxes not cold in those dayes. I haue also beleueed that the name of Arthure tooke his beginning from the Romane Arthures. For Iuuenall the Poet in his thirde Satyre wyteth thus.

Cedamus Patria, Vivant *Arturini* istie,
& *Catulus*.

From our countrie departe let vs:
There Arthure liue and Catulus.

Although Brittain was by Claudius brought into one only countrie, it was yet a thing most familiar amongst the noble men of Brittain, partly to take vnto the names of the Romans, & to giue them most often vnto their children, by this persuation (as I verily beleue not foolishly) so moued, that herehence they would procure honour vnto them & theirs, & gaine theselues favour of the Romans. Lucius whome the Brittaines surnamed the great, Constantine and he also the great, Aurelius Ambrosius, & Arthure vnto these not inferiour, doe mightely ratifie this mine opinion. The same thing also is perfozmed in the attribution of names vnto noble women. For example, such were Claudia Rufina a woman sincerelie learned, as Martiall the Poet witnesseth. Helena the most holy matron, and Virgula that Cynosura or glittering Starre so called. And where as the inscription of the Seale by a certaine circumstance of words calleth him Emperor of Brittain, Fraunce, Germany & finally of Demarcke. This also cometh to passe through the customs of the Romans & their billigence, yet together with their triumphes the titles also of nations conquered might accrete or encrease vnto the conqueror. For a token hereof the Bowes were vled in triumphes at Rome, and the Coynes of Cesar with their figures were with like care stamped. But the name of the Emperour, as by Auncientie, (after the testimony of Cesar, Cicero, and Liuius apparant) pertained vnto the gouernors of the legions: wherupon Arthure is called Emperour by

From whence
the name of
Arthure was
first deriued.

Anno Christi
nato. 44.

Perottus in
Cornucopia
nameth her a
Nymph, & one
of Iupiters
nec.

Bowes vled for
triumphes at
Rome.

Arthure appt
called Em-
perour.

an apt worde, significant, and as it were a pure Latine Phrase. And where as the inscription hath not Arturius but Arturus (leaving out the letter .i.) that doe I impute vnto the error or negligence of the ingrauer only. Proper names of the Romaines by a certaine composition or methode, & by a certaine nature of theirs, doe runne at length more delicately & more familiarly, & doe end in ius rather then in us: as Emilius, Milius, Claudius, Cornelius, Teretius, Vergilius, Horatius, and Ouidius. I haue saide before my minde touching Arthures triumphes by reason of his battles prosperously accomplished against the Saxones & Frenchmen. It now remaineth (that being put in minde of y^e inscriptio of his scale) concerning GERMANIE & DENMARCKE I shoulde speake somewhat. But heere the authoritie of auncient historiographers (while I would proceede to so honest a purpose) doth not minister vnto me (according as my desire is to write) sufficient matter in this poynte. And of truth in the meane time not to defend the cause I haue taken vpon me, were no doubt a matter of controuersie. I will be so bold therfore as one fully confirmed with this so assured & manifest testimonie of inscriptio, to promise the reader faithfully y^e Arthure having banquished the French men by some memorable garboile, did feight hand to hand with y^e Germans and the Dacians. Except any man contend y^e the victorie respected thus farre, y^e Arthure in the ciuill battle sharply tamed y^e Saxons & Cymbrians of the Germane and Danske people. Chersonesus of the Cymbrians was in times past y^e part of Germany which is now called by later termes or names Deumarcke and Norway. The more ancient kinges of these nations (as I haue heard) did in their priuileges write themselves rulers not of y^e Danes, but of y^e Dacians. And yet there are amongst y^e learned sorte which affirme y^e the Dacians inhabited that regio which is now called Moldauia, & Valachia. Volateranus in his 3. booke of Geography affirmeth, y^e part of Fraunce, of Norway, and of Dacia was conquered by Arthure. Also Tritemius writeth on this manner. Which thing when the kinges of Dacia and of Norway did heare they comming thether of theyr owne freewill and

K. Arth. conquestes in forraigne countries.

volun-

voluntarie mindes, became subiect vnto his gouernmēt. Here must the Reader be admonished of me, that not onely *John Stow* *John Stow* Saxones, English men, & luites otherwise Vites so called, came into Brittain, but also the inhabitantes of al *John Stow* Coastes of Germany. Otherwise they had beene vnniete matches for so many battelles and byoyles. Now haue I described out the Seale with the inscription therupon in his colours after a sort. The next enterpryse, shall be to sette downe in wytyng Arthures returne out of Fraunce, and the blood by battelles betweone him and Mordred.

CAP. IX.

King Arthures returne out of Fraunce.

ARthure had aduertisement both by letters and also by messengers of spetiall credit, that Mordred his too much famulier friend was wth Guenhera, whiles himselfe was absent: and besides this, that he had entered a League (against the oath of his aleageance) with Cerdicius the King and with the Saxons: peelding vp vnto them (to the infinite daunger of the common weale) almost all the Countrie which extendeth towarde the South part of Brittain. Another mischeefe also happened hereunto: then which more pernicious was none. This same most lewde revolt, and most vngacious betrayer of his Lord, and Land, (al bondes of amitie, aliance and aleageance being broken) takes vpon him the purple roabe not fitte for those his Holders, and trusting to a new vpstart tyranny of his, mountes vp to *John Stow* *John Stow* royall seats. Arthure could no longer abide so notable an injury howsoever done vnto him by this periured person: although he also a few yeares before had determined his iust reuēge vpon him, (being yet letted by his warres in Fraunce) but that he would utterly subuert by might and maine, so horrible, & ingent, and so cruell a monster. His nauy therefore being prepared, from the Cittie Bononia bordering vp, on the coastes of Belgia vnto the shoare of Richeborow (as witnesseth Mattheus Florilegus together wth others) he labourerth the Seaes with prosperouse windes. The most lew,

Mordred was with Guenhera in Arthures absence, practising mischeefe with Cerdicius that Saxon.

K. Arthures expedition against Mordred.

John Stow.

The Assertion of

Mordred
meetes him.

The armies of
them both en-
camped.

K. Arthures
noble Oration
vnto his soul-
diours & sub-
iectes going
to fight a-
gainst Mor-
dred and his
company.

best seruant of all vnderstood before, the continuing of his gra-
cious Lord, and with a full appoynted Host not without
counsell and helpe of Pictes, Scottes, & West Saxones, most
boldly meetes him, returning home. The Coast of Kent
rattled with all manner noyse of weapons: and now the Cap-
taines stood orderly before their ensignes: the troupe of Che-
ualliers also conquerours of the world to chearefull assaulte
tossed their weapons, parte of them drew out their fierie fla-
shing blades, and part shaked their shivering speares with
strong handes. They had all one voyce. The battells were
warrelike sightes. Arthure most iocund with this prompt
alacritie and stout courages of his Souldiours, as the
miracle both of all manhood, and also of ripe wisdom by ex-
perience, made such a like Oration vnto them by lifting vp
his eyes from the earth vnto heauen, and with cherefulness
of countenance together with a certaine maiestie ayred, say-
ing on this manner.

Yee *Cheualiers* the most noble lightes of martiall pro-
wesse, and you the other multitude of most approued
valiancie, do see whither our fortune and associate of so
great victories hath brought vs, as what we haue with
most strong hand gotten abroad, wee may not onely
keepe vpright, but also get vs more greater booties with
some straunge and large increase: the which thing that
it may at this instant be brought to passe and more ease-
ly, such occasion is now offered vs, as all good happes
could not in deede, if they would, more plentifully, nor
more prosperously offer themselues to fauour vs friend-
ly. Let vs therefore go to this geare with most manly
courages, whither as *Fortune*, *Valiancie*, and finally *victory*
calleth vs. Now is the most impudent *Mordred* at hand,
yet one most nearest to me in bloude, whome I haue
brought vp and loued in hope of greate fame, and so far
forth made much of, and that in very many booties be-
stowed vpon him in deede, and those no lesse beneficiall
as whē I should passe into *France* to aduenge me of mine
enemies, he so seeming to be then vndoubtedly of pro-
found counsell, vnto him I did both commit my wife &
state

state, (and that which is much more) my native country to keepe, and to gouerne our affaires as our deputie, finally to defend the same most valiantly from the dayly assault of *Saxones*, *Scottes*, & *Pictes*. But he in meane time forgetfull of my most bountifull liberallity towards him, & of our familiaritie, (which for most part in humane affaires, hath vndoubtedly cheefest importance) and not remembring the solene oath of warelike order, wherby he is to me most deeply bounden, like a false periured and mightie contemner of God and man, yea an adulter also, (as Fame reporteth) now entertayneth me, a King and Conquerour of Nations, and his Liege soueraigne Lord returning into mine owne Countrie (if God so would permit him) euen with open hostilitie, hauing ready for his coplices the *Pictes* his kinsmen, the *Scottes* their neighbours, & last of all the *Saxones* to helpe him.

Nota.

Their first
battell fought
in Kent.

And neither doth this so notable mischeefe only touch me, but in deede it toucheth you all. Wherefore you most inuincible Champiōs, my only care, & you most valiant fellow souldiers, with present prowesse, handle your commune cause, and let vertue now shine forth in you, which I haue hetherunto perceiued to be ready, valiant & wonderful alwayes. Sir *Gallouinus* you the most praise worthy garland of warlike prowesse, whose glory for manie causes, and cheefly this, is most commendable vnto the world (in that you haue set at nought, *Mordred* our commune enemye, and in respect of equitie & oath of your allegiance to vs made, haue despised him your brother in Law.) Stād you here on your right hand, as the most apt furnished horne with strength of Souldiours. For the first shares of hand stroakes and of renome shal light in this troupe of yours. Sir *Augusellus* as the bulwarke of most approued valiancie shal cast himselfe to encounter with our enemies at the left wing. I my selfe (& God to friēd) will in the midst of you fight it out continually and will be present as your onely safegard, but to the enemies will I be a terrour, a scourge, and a deserued destruction.

Sir Gallouinus
his charge.

Sir Augusellus
his charge.

But

The Assertion of

But what neede many wordes, which neyther in deede adde nor take away valiant courage. Your valiancy is enlarged by custome, exercise, and sustayning of labour, watchinges and penury, yea finallie by shedding of the enemies bloud, and spoyling the same enemies: For the which considerations both I to you, and you to me againe (God fauouring so iust a cause) do promise assured victory. Go to, make immortall tryall of your manhoodes, and slay down right those traytours at a pinch.

The apparant
promptitude
of king Arth.
his souldiours.

His victory.

Two of his
Cheualiers,
or knights
saine.

When he had thus saide, they altogether at their Couenours commaundement sholuted aloude, and with a cherefull onsette, bestowing in order their ensignes, far and wide shewed forth the valiant tokens of warlike attempt. So at the length partly their enemies being slaine, and partly put to flight, Arthure obtayned the victoꝝy with an horrible ouerthrow of his enemies. But there were slaine in that battell fough at the haven of Dorchester, both Gallouinus and Angusellus the two thunderbolts of the battell, as Gracius maketh mention in his booke called Scalecronica, and as other Authours of fame not to be despyed, do witness. Mordred blaming Fortunes vntowardnesse, with a hauey recovered, & the remnant of his Host therein, got him with shame enough to the haven of Tāmeroth on the Sea coaste of Cornwaile. The noble carse of Gallouinus was entombed in a certaine Chappell within the Castle of Dorchester. But Arthure, (the death of two so excellent famous men being fully knowne to him) sore bewailed the same: and with ofte prayer, as also with very deepe greefe of heart, suppressing sorrow from their handes, (nobly minded and of Godly disposition as he was) fatherly tooke care over them. And then in deed having a fresh prepared with incredible expedition a full Host and army, he determined with long toyneyes to pursue his lewde enemy, and as it were vpon the snappē to ouerthrowe the fugetime. Mordred yet was more craftie, then of power able to withstand: hereupon found he out a meane for vnacustomed inuentions. He had manifest knowledge given him by spials, that Arthure most absolutely furnished for the battell, was coming at hand.

Mordredes
preparation
against king
Arthure, the
second time.

Where

Wherefore he commanded every souldier wearied upon y^e land, & againe to toile vpon y^e sea, as also penury of coyne, to be parte for a season, & hauing refreshed their industrie, labour, & diligence, as also furnishing them with munitio, so well as he could through y^e mountayny soiles of Cornwale, by y^e way y^e leadeth to the bankes of Seuerne, not farre thence distāt cō- durteth he his host with easie fornes: and in a place which of y^e cōmon sort of writers is called Cambſā (where as are waste grounds & partly a natural moist plaine, & a little hill rising vpon to y^e ble of a watch or prospect) did he pitch his tents. Here am I cōpelled to interpose or set dolone by the way my iudgment cōcerning the place where it was fought by both parts: and for y^e cause y^e I should not thinke to bring hether any thing amongst y^e rest, as if it were out of Iupiters blame, but that with y^e good leaue of y^e learned sort I might explaine my cōiecture, without all bitterness or disdaine as it were touching it by the way. In which behalfe I freely cōfesse my selfe hardly to hold opiniō with Hector Boetius the Scot, which (as his maner is) applieth all most famous facts of antiquity in Brittain to y^e cōmendatiō of his owne cōuntry, beyond all meaure & measure. And here he boldly affirmeth y^e Arthure (with his last ensignes) fought it out not far frō y^e great flowing river of Seuerne, which he barbarously calleth Hūbar not knowing the circumstance of the phrase. But the history of Brittain beleueth otherwise, & affirmeth that he scourged his enemies in his last battle in Cornwale: so yet notwithstanding as he mētioneth how Mordred was y^e second time vāquished and put to flight by Arthure at Winchester.

Graius undoubtedly an excellent chāpion in behalfe of y^e truth & a stoute assertor of Arthures glozy, holdes y^e same opinion. Neither singeth the sound censured society of learned witnelles any other song. But truly our coniecture is not of the places, but of the name of the place. Surely I am almost brought to that poynte, to beleene that the Riuer Alaune is easily chaunged by the faulte of vñ learned Lybzyres into Camblan. This Riuer ryseth in Cornwale a feire Myles aboue the Towne Athell-towe otherwise Padstowe, a fithet Towne not so farre situate

Nota.

Arthures second battle with

Mordred, and the place

where,

Graius a writer in the fauour of Arthure.

M. Cambden.

scituate from the Salte water of Seuerne: by meanes whereof,
(but yet mixed with salte waters) it runneth downe lower
into the countrie. Aboute the heade springes of that Dygi
rall in Champion groundes, and a certaine waste plaine,
there is a famous place, somewhat moze fruitfull of grasse
the of cozne. The reporte (amongest the inhabitants so many
ages preserved) declareth that of olde time, there was made a
notable garboile by fighting in y^e place, but in meane time the
truth of the hystorie is vnknowne vnto y^e commoⁿ sort. Many
things no doubt euen in this our age are founde out of y^e same
place by ploughmen & those that delue at the Riuer: such as
are these quopnes which shewe the governments of auncient
personages, ringes, fragments of harnesse & brassen ornaments
for Whiles vnguilt, for trappers & also saddles for Horses.
This is my coniecture, both by reason of the situation of the
place, & also for y^e name of y^e riuer of Alanne, running hard by,
yet not far dissimilant (if a man behold it moze thoroughly) frō
Camblan. Arthure now draweth neare, & passing ouer y^e ri
uer of Tamer mouth, by knowne passages, yet otherwise a
streame most violent in many places & most deepe (the enemy
fugitive not being regarded) he pitcheth tents against tents.
Behold, desperation (as oft times it hapneth) restoreth vn
wonted boldnes to the ouercomen part. And wherupon both
partes prouoke battle, burning with hope of spoyle & of victo
ry, as also fearing nothing lesse then death.

M. Camden.

Quis cladem illius pugnae, quis funera fando

Explicit: aut possit lachrymis aquare labores:

Who shall that bloodie broyle expresse or the dead corpses name?
Or who can iustly tell the toyles with iust teares for the same?

Mordred shew
outright.

Mordred the first forman of all mischief (this battle be
ing attempted) and he thrust through with y^e sword, re
ceiued a iust rewarde for his breach of faith & perjury. Let
him be an example, & that for euer, to such as for desire of go
uernment infringe and violate their faith. There was slaine
together with y^e tyrant a great nūber of noble personages & of
old beaten souldiers: But neither was the victorie without
bloodshedde befallen vnto Arthure. For in that broyle and
fierce

these sight, himselfe was eitheraine outright, or wounded
past recovery, so that a little while after with publike lamenta-
tion of all Brittain (but specially of his heauie hearted cheua-
lyers for the mischance of so noble a Prince) he was caried a-
way fro thence. And thus in deede was the end or death of the
most puissant Prince Arthure.

K. Arthure re-
ceiued his
death wound,
& yet had the
victorie.

CHAP. X.

K. Arthures Commendation.

A Rthure is now deade (if so hee may bee sayde to
haue dyed well) whole fame, memory, and praye
fully and wholly liue, and shine forth in the worlde.

Our ancestors, both Poets and also historiographers were
so friendly, honest, and thankfull towarde Arthure, that
they both enobled his fame and factes, and also adorne them
with eternall memorie and commendation. The hellesius
Melchinus, who is also called Meuinus, Ambrosius Mari-
dunensis, & Merlinus Caledonius the most excellent starres
of Brittaines antiquitie haue performed this effect. Nennius
and Samuell, historiographers of Brittain haue performed
no lesse memorie bestowing their state he titles of commenda-
tions accordingly. Touching whome and others also were
haue before fully spoken in their places, asping in the autho-
ryty of Galfredus, Aluredus, Hery of Huntington, John
termed the Golden Historiographer, William of Malmes-
burie, Graius, and Boccace.

Auncient Au-
thors, as Poets,
& Historiogra-
phers, writing
in commenda-
tion of K. Ar-
thure.

Christiologi-
phus.

But if it now an ayle any man to knowe any thing as
yet more in matter and larger discourse: I will not refuse (in
the best diligence that I can) to restore to light a fewe wordes
taken out of the most appoyned Authours. Iosephus the wis-
ter brought up at Exceter in Deuonshire, and the Golden
flood of Greeke and Latine eloquence in his dayes, extollet
Arthure to the very cloudes, not only for his excellent prow-
esse, as in his Antiochides appeareth by these verses, contem-
ning for the victorie with the Romane antiquitie.

Isca.

Hinc celebri fato falsci claruit ortu,
Flos Regum & throni: Cuius cum facta stupori

The Allertion of

Non micuere minus, quod totus in aure voluptas,
Et populo narrante fauus, Quæcunq; priorum;
Inspice: Pelleum eomemndat fama Tyrannum,
Pagina Cæsareos loquitur Romana triumphos,
Alciden domitis attollit gloria monstis.
Sed nec Pinetum Coryli, nec sydera solem
Equant. Annales Latios, Graiosq; reuolue.
Prisca parem nescit, æqualem Postera nullum
Exhibitura dies. Reges supereminet omnes.
Solus, prateritis melior, maiorq; futuris.

Hence flourished by famous fate, and origin prosperous (ueilous
Arthure the slawre of kinges, whose deede shined no lesse mer-
The that both peoples eares & tongues did in his praise delue:
As. If thou view of former wights, what euer bookes recite,
Fame doth Pelleus tyrant blaze: and Romane histories
Extoll their Cæsars tryumphes greate, after their Victories.
Renoume aduanceth Hercules subduing Monsters greate:
But not Coryli, Pinetus, nor Stars the Sūne his heate.
Coequate, Search the Cronicles of Greekes & Latines both:
Ancient age knoweth not his like, ne yet posteritie doth
His match declare. All kinges, alone in deede surmounteth he,
Better then those are deade & gone, Greater then any shall be.

There hath beene seene latelie at Glastenburie a little
Booke of matters touching Antiquitie, gathered by a
certaine most studious Moncke of y^e same Cloyster: who
by exercise of Rethoricall coulour as it were handling an o-
ther matter, doth famously mett of Arthure in these wordes.
I passe ouer with silence also to speake of Arthure the no-
ble king of Brittain buried with his wife betweene two
Pyramedes within the churchyard of those woorkes, & many
princes also of y^e Brittaines. Siluester Giraldus Meneuēsis,
a chiefe fauourer of Antiquitie in his booke entituled the
Institution of a Prince, enobleth Arthures fame with this
maner speech.

Siluester Giral-
dus his testi-
mony of K. Ar-
thure.

The memorie also of Arthure y^e noble king of Brittain
ought not to be buried or utterly trode vnder foote, whom y^e
histories of y^e monastery of Glastebury (whose chiefe patron,
bene

factor and mightie supporter he also was in his dayes) do much aduancee. Iohannes Anneuillanus no doubt a witty Poet of his tyme, and no lesse elegant, solemnizeth Arthures praise in these verses, which cutt at this day appeare in his booke *Architrenio*.

Iohannes Anneuillanus.

Alter *Achilles*

Arthurius, teretis mensæ genitiua venustas,
A *Rama Phrygius*, dandi non vnda sed æquor.

An other *Achilles*

(rounde

Arthure was, whose first growne grace, through out his table
Him *Phrigius* made as of a Branch with frutes which doth a
For liberall hand, not Riuer he, but a maine sea Tfound. (bound

But here if ouer & besides this I should endeouour largely, to adorne Arthure with praise as the multitude of Authours do most truly write and agree vpon him: sooner should copy of eloquence faile me, then magnificencie of light, some testimony howsoever. Be it sufficient then that we vse at this present the most famous commendations, though of fewe writers. I pray you, what is the cause that *Trittemius* in in his bryefe Cronicle maketh so excellent mention of Arthure. Doubtlesse the cause is plaine enough. For by reason he learned the same of others in plaine trouth, therefore did he as thankfull commit it vnto posteritie: which thing doubtlesse he would neuer haue done, had he doubted of the veritie of the cause. But now let *Trittemius* him selfe in presence speake. Which Arthure excelling in great humanitie, wisdom, clemencie and manhood, studied by all endenour to shew him selfe beloued and reuerenced of all, and to excell all: because also he abounded in valiance of minde with wonderfull liberalitie towards all men, and specially towards Church men, vnto whome for zeale to Godwardes, he gaue very many benefittes, yea and also rewardes. He droue out of *Brittaine* both *Saxons* and *Pictes*. He mightely subdued, the *Scottes*, *Irishmen*, and *Orcades* vnto his kingdome.

Trittemius his testimony, who was famous Anno. 1484.

Trittemius his wordes in commendation of king Arthure.

Volateranus in his third booke of Geography honoureth the same of Arthure & diligently celebrateth his valiant ades.

Volateranus.

Iacobus Philippus Bergomas.

Furthermore also Iacobus Philippus of Bergoma in his 9. booke of Cronicles, aduanceth Arthures valiancie & uen with most condigne commendations.

Naclerus his testimony

And neither doth Naclerus, in his hystory make any lesse relation of him. These testimonies doubtlesse (men both most learned & most exercised in Antiquitie would neuer haue set downe) if they had not first beene fully perswaded, that Arthure in times past was abundantly notable by all ornaments of valiancie. But such is the lewdnesse of many men, and their disdainfull minde, that they altogether being seduced with ignorance, (and that in deede very rude) do not manifestly see at full, but blindly neglect, contemne, and altogether reiect the truth. Such Censors or Judges in auncient histories let them go a Codes name, and let them enioy their foolishnesse at full, I will not say their madnesse. What if I should bring forth amongst the rest, that notable testimony of

Hector Boxtius a Scottish writer.

Hector Boxtius, a writer in our time, touching y^e immortall glozy of Arthure? Surely by this accompt nothing shal fall from his dignitie, but very much shal be added thereto for this cause, that y^e Scots in old time (I know not by what instinct of nature) hated the Brittaines as y^e Proverbe sayeth. Odio Vatiniano. Whereupon, to be prayled of an aduersarie, & nemie and euen a deadly foe. standeth in place of a reward for victory. These are then his words. King Arthure was no lesse famous in glory for notable exploitcs, & for martialtie, then the Kinges of Brittain, which liued before his dayes: whereupon the Brittaines during his raigne very much encreased in riches & power. Thus far saith Boxtius.

Hector Boxtius his commendation of K. Arthure.

What iust occasion with I here to be given me of Polidorus the Italian, that eu^e by some memorabile testimony of his, I might also aduance Arthures countinace, & make him looke aloft? He handleth Arthures cause in deed, but by the way, he yet is so fainte harted, like warme & so negligent y^e he makes me not onely to laugh, but also to be angry (as while he is contrary to truth, and filled wth Italian bitterness) I know not whether he smile or be angry. For he wretchedly him selfe wretchedly in the apthnesse of the hystory, which yet that he might frame after a sort, he is compelled, will bee

Polidorus Virgilius a corrupt witnesse of King Arthures worthinesse.

will be, to come in fauour vnto Geoffry of Monmouth: whom
 before (as it seemed vnto him) he had in many words (pro-
 ceeding mightely rather of bitter stomache, then of good dis-
 gestion) corrected also at his owne controlement. Whom for
 as an interpreter I haue ones or twise only defensed in a cause
 as no doubt most iust. (A danger in deed great might redound
 vpon my heade) if I should passe beyond my boundes of equity.
 I will take heede therefore, and trusting onely in my veritie of
 the cause, I will continually beare the same aboute vnto me for
 a bulwarcke & sure defence. Though Polidore hold his peace
 it is not needfull by and by for the whole worlde to be mute:
 And although Italy intunes past so esteemed of Arthure,
 and yet still doth, when bookes printed both of his prowesse,
 & victories (as I haue learned) are read in the Italian tongue
 yea in my Spanish, and also in the French tongue: whereupon
 also the English collection of Thomas Mailerius his trauaile,
 is published abroad. The aduersarie I know will say, that
 many eyes haue crept into those bookes. Wherefore this is
 nothing els, but to teach him which is fully taught. As I
 contemne fables, so I reuerence & embrace my truth of the histo-
 ry: neyther will I suffer this to be taken away from mee at
 any time, but with losse of life. Unthankfull persons I bitter-
 ly eschew and I betake me vnto those Rockes & monumets,
 the true witnesses of Arthures renoume and maiestie. And
 in this behalfe, Siluester Geraldus Meneuensis, enter-
 taineth me comming to him vnto these wordes taken out of that
 worke of his called Itenerariu. He vnderstandes conclusiue-
 ly that Breecania or Brecknock rounde about is the Land so
 called as it were by reason of the loftie blastes from my North
 winde. From Zephirus or the Westerly winde, it hath the
 mountaine places of Canter Vehā, alias my lesse Vehany, fro
 Auster or the Southerly winde, it hath hilles southwarde,
 whereof the principall is called in the Brittain language
 Cair Arture: that is to say Arthures Castle, by reason of
 the two toppes of the hilles ascendinge vpwordes shew-
 inge them selues in maner of a Castle. And because
 the Chaire of State is there erected in a high and
 hard place it is by a common name assigned vnto
 the

Bookes prin-
 ted of Arthure
 in forraigne
 languages.

Siluester Giral-
 dus in his It-
 tenerario tou-
 ching Breck-
 nocke.

Cair Arture
 or Arthures
 Castle.

K. Arthures
 Chaire of
 State.

The Assertion of

Baldwinum
alias Mount-
gomery.

King Arthures
Gate there.

Gentlemen of
Wales praise
worthie in
praying their
Prince studi-
ously addicted.

King Arthure
furnamed Ar-
thure the great

8

the high and mightie Arthure King of Brittain. These saith
Siluester, Giraldus. Now must I take my journey from the
hilles of Breconia into Baldwine, a Towne in olde time
famous, which for foure hundred yeares and more a-
gone, (of Roger then gouernoure of Mountgomerie,
and Earle of Shrowsbury, was called Mountgomerie.
Here amongst the ruinous olde Cotages of the walles, is
a place by common reporte knowne, which the remnant of
the citizens of later age do call Arthures gate. Truly the
people of Wales haue alwayes bene and as yet are
with a certaine Gentlemanly seruient affection bent to set
forth the praises of their Princes. Through which title euen
at this day shyneth forth the same together also with the
commendation not bulgar of Arthure furnamed the greater:
who is also called in the Brittain language *Arthure Vaur*,
Maur In the Brittish tongue signifieth great: but the sond
pronunciation of the welch tongue (in the worde *Copularine*
Mauve) turneth M. into V. Like as also in other wordes
by reason of their proper tearming, B. is oftentimes turned
into V.

CAP. XI.

The Antiquitie of *Analonis*.

Diffinition of
Analonis the
place where
King Arthure
was buried.

Geoffry of
Monmouth
his testimony
thereof.

The circumstance of speech, here admonisheth me that I
expresse somewhat touching Arthures buriall: where-
of as I haue made sufficient mention, so indge I it specially
(for the lightsome order) conuenient that I should first
with exquisite diligence consecrate vnto posteritie the Anti-
quitie of that place, whither vnto the deade corpes was caried.
Ana in the Brittish tongue signifieth Malum, (or as I may
with a more comin phraise interprete it) Pomum, an Aple:
and *Analon* signifieth Pomarium, or Orcharde. By reason
whereof also, of Merlinus Caledonius, (as Geoffrey Ar-
thurus of Monmouth interpreteth the same) it is called the
Isle of Apples, in these wordes.

Insula pomorum quæ fortunata vocatur;

Ex re nomen habet, quia per se singula profert.

Non

Non opus est illi sulcantibus arua colonis :
 Omnis abest cultus nisi quem natura ministrat.
 Vltro fecundas segetes producit & Vuas :
 Nataque poma suis, praeconso germine syluis.

*The Isle of Apples, which called is fortunate,
 Of effect hath name, for it brings forth all things :
 The seeded ground no needs of Plowmen hath,
 All tillage wants, save that which Nature brings.
 Of it owne accorde it beares both Grapes & Corne,
 And apples grow in Woods, first grafts being pruned & shorn.*

MElchinus the Brittain makes mention of Aualonia and of the religious place there. Silvester Giraldus in his booke De Institutione Principis, thus speaketh. And y^e island which at this day is called Glastenbury, was called in auncient time Aualonia: for it is an Island altogether environed with moorish or feney groundes: Whereupon in the Brittish tongue it is called Aualon, that is, an Island fruitfull of apples: for with apples (which in the Brittish tongue are called Aual) this place aboundeth.

Melchinas:

Silvester, Giraldus &

Patricius the Apostle or teacher amongst the Irishmen in a certaine Epistle makes mention of this place, but by another name, whose wordes also I will hereunto annex.

Patricius, all with cles of Aualonia.

I haue conuerted Ireland vnto the way of truth, and when I had grounded them in the christian faith, I returned at length into Brittain, & as I beleue (by the guidance of God, who is the way and the life) I chaunced into the Island *Inisvittrine*, wherein I found a holy and auncient place chosen of God, and consecrated vnto the Virgin Mary, and there also founde I certaine Brethren instructed with the rudiments of the Christian faith, which succeeded the Disciples of *Fugarius* and *Dami-*

Allas Ciuitas vittrina, nunc Glastenbury.

Supposed rather to be Fugarius & Dami- manus, vi ante

Thus farre sayth Patricius: who in that place of his epistle also recyteth the names of twelue religious persons: where of two were noble personages: Of all which twelue, he had chiefe Rule, as by these wordes it is manifest.

So they preferred me (though against my will) before them:

Faganus and
Damasianus.

themselves. And againe, in the same Epistle the brethren shewed me writings of those holy men Fugatius and Damianus, wherein was conteyned that the twelue Disciples of S. Philip and Jacob the Apostles had founded and erected that auncient Church: and that three Pagan kings had given so many possessions of land unto those twelue.

Ut ante dixi,
Faganus & Di-
ruianus.

And last of al how that Fugatius & Damianus had builded a chappell on a high hill, not farre from Analonia in the honor of God and S. Michael. There is enough at this present (even touch and goe) to haue understanding of the reuerend father Patricius his Epistle.

W. of Malmes-
burie his testi-
mony.

Gulielmus Meildunensis, in his booke of the antiquities of the religious house at Glastenburie, and in his first booke of kings unto Henric Blesensis otherwise Soliasensis Bishop of Venta Simenorum or Winchester, writeth not unlike matters. Wherupon also by good coniecture it may be scene that this William, tooke his translations out of the Epistle of Patricius. Siluester Giraldus in his booke De Institutione Principis, not inconueniently replaneth the Etymon or true interpretation of the name. It was also in times past called in the brittish language Iniswitrine: by which word the Saxones which came thither afterwarde called that place Glastenbury. For Gles in their tongue signifieth Vitrum or glasse, and Bury signifieth Castrum or Castle, and is called together the city of Glastenburie. These doth he affirme. Truly unto me this seemeth to be a scule faulte in writers of bookes that they here do recite Bury for burg or berg: Bury in the Saxon tongue is in Latine Curia: As for example, Aldermanburie, that is to say Seniorum Curia. Also Littlebury, that is Parua Curia. Canonbury commonly called Canbury. Burg otherwise Borow, signifieth a hill, and high places of earth cast up. Finally Berg is in the Latine tongue called Castrum: by reason whereof I more truly beleue we must reade Berg or Burg, for a Castle: which worde Giraldus bleth or maketh it to serve for a Towne: although as I may freely confesse, I finde the name written diuersly amongst the ancients by. Glessenbury Glestobury and Glessenburg. And there are which pronounce Glas for Gles: Although
Glos

Siluester Gi-
raldus his testi-
mony and ex-
planation of
Glastenburie.

Gles is moze perfect and moze stuncient, as by the name of the Ilandes of Glastenburic it appeareth plainly.

CHAP. XII.

K. Arthures Buriall.

Neither can I, nor wil I publish for truely, whether Arthure dyed out right in the battell fought at Alaune, which is commonly called Camblā, or at Aualonia, while his woundes were in pealing. The writers of Brittain with one voyce holde argument, that he dyed at Aualonia, through griefe of the same woundes: But touching the place of his buriall, they doe all agree as one.

Writers of brittaine affirming where Arthure died.

This one thing dare I be bolde to affirme, the Brittaines were so sorrowfull for the death of their Soueraigne Lorde, that they endeouored by all meanes to make the same famous, and to leaue the name of their Couernour euen for euer fearefull and to bee trembled at amongst the Saxones: So farre forth as they with a certaine plausible and straunge inuention did spreade abroad Rumours both of his coming againe, and of his ruling againe. Touching the againe coming (of Arthure so wounded to death) into Aualonia aforesaid, certaine Brittaines did blimely write. But none moze at large nor moze lightsome, then Merlinus Caledonius being instructed (as some men suppose) of Theliesinus the Poet: whose verses also I will heere annex, selected out of his little booke of prophecy, Geoffrey Arthurius beeing interpreter thereof.

The Brittaines sorrowfull for the death of K. Arthure.

Merlinus Caledonius a writer his verses of K. Arthures death

Illic post Bellum Camblani vulnere laesum,
Duximus Arthurum, nos conducente Barincho.
Equora cui fuerant, & cæli Sidera nota.
Hoc Rectore ratis, cum Principe venimus illuc,
Et nos quo decuit Morgan suscepit honore,
Inq̃ suis thalamis posuit super aurea Regem
Fulcra, manuq̃ sibi detexit vulnus honesta,
Inspexitq̃ diu: tandem redire salutem,

The Assertion of

Posse sibi dixit, si secum tempore longo
Esset, & ipsius vellet Medicamina fungi.
Gaudentes igitur, Regem communimus illi,
Et dedimus ventis redeundo vela secundis.

The English.

Whether after the battle was at Camblan fiercely fought.
(Barinchus so conducting vs) we Arthure wounded brought.
Who knew the seas, & of the stars the Chymats perfectly,
By this guider of the helme with Prince we thether ply.
And Morgan vs receiued as it behouea with honor dwe,
In Chäber his on Golde bearse, and laide the king to view.
And with his friendly hād forthwith did Archures wound unhill,
Long looking thereon, said, may be life come againe yet will.
If he along time were with him, & would his medicines vse,
Therfore with ioy the king to him we did betake to chuse,
And hoist our sailes with prosperous wind: by our returne our porte
to finde.

Morgan a faith
full friend and
true subiect vn
to Arthure.

Morgans wife
made prouisiō
for Arthures
buriall.

S Yluester Gyraldus writeth in his Speculo Ecclesiasti-
co, that Morgā's noble wife made prouision for Arthures
buriall. And againe in his booke De Institutione Principis
he makes relation of these thinges. Whereupon also the no-
ble wife of Morgan, and Gouvernelle of those partes againe
as Patronesse there and also neare of blood vnto Arthure, af-
ter the battle at Kemelen caused him to be conueyed into an
Isle (which now is called Glasconia) to cure and heale up
his woundes.

Britannicz
Historiz Inter
pres testimoni-
um dat de mor-
te Arthuri.

Iohannes Bur-
gensis testimo-
niū de eodem.

The interpreter of the British history, writeth of the death
of Arthure, on this manner, as in his first booke appeareth.
Arthure being wounded vnto death at the battle at Cam-
blan went vnto Aualonia, his kingdome being left vnto
Constantine the sonne of Cadorus Duke of Cornwale.

Iohannes Burgensis Abbot, in his Annales hath leit these
wordes in credible writings. When Arthure was at the
pointe of death, he kept him selfe secret, that his enemies
should not insult at such and so great a mishap, nor his
friends be discōforted as troubled in minde. Thus farhe.

Now must wee speake of the relictous place at Aualonia,
wherein Arthure was buried.

Mel-

Melchinus specially makes mention of this and also of Arthure buried there.

Gulielmus a Medulphi curia both els where, and specially in his booke De antiquitate Glesoburgensi, religiously celebrateth this place where Arthure was buried.

The same thing both Giraldus Meneuensis also in his Speculo Ecclesiastico, and in his booke De Institutione Principis, religious houses were not at that time so common, and in so many places of Brittain, as they be in these dayes.

Saxons of noble linage, a people without knowledge of God if happily being sick they dyed at home, were buried in pleasant gardens: if they were slaine abroad, and in battell, they were then buried in graues digged out of the earth, which they called Burghs, neare vnto their tentes: but the base common people were buried even in medowes and open fieldes. There was at that time a religious place neare vnto the olde Church, in very greate estimation. By which title and of the whole nobilitie in all the west Countiees of Brittain, it was chosen as a place allotted for their burials. The same was after wardes often done by such Saxons as had the knowledge of God. As at Douer of the Kentishmen, at Yorke of the Brygantes, at Lindisfarna or Lyland and so forth in other places. Concerning the place of his buriall it is now sufficient manifest.

It remaineth that I make declaration of the ceremony and manner of his buriall. There was present (but secretly) a Troupe of Noble personages which mourned for his death of their soueraigne Lord bereft from them by such sinister fate. The wife of Morgan alone provided for the buriall thinges needfull: a woman doubtlesse of incomperable godlinesse, who performed all ceremonies and seruices with greefe of minde, and fountes of teares. The manner in those dayes was to bury in the graues, and to lay them as a surceasing from sorrow to the vse of Tombes or sepulcres great boules or boopes of Alder trees; whereof the places about Aualonia neare adioyning were most fruitfull. For the Alder tree hath I knowe not what propertie with the naturall

Aualonia commended by 3. writers. viz. Melchinus, & Malmsbury Giraldus.

Burying places how and for whom in those dayes.

Ceremonies vsed at King Arthure his buriall.

Morgans noble wife alone provided for King Arthures buriall.

How he was
interred in the
earth.

Monumentes
of him.

moyst ground, such as is a Churchyard: so farre forth as the substance thereof laide on this soyle, more deepe in the Earth, should be reputed for everlasting not onely. The body of Arthure thus bewailed and mourned for, was buried in a graue of sufficient depth, with the greate boale of Alder tree therein laide hollow. And because he liued most magnificent in fame, factes, and rule of his kingdome (they following diligently the custome and integritie of Christians in this poynt) bestowed vpon the Tombe of Arthure so buried, a token of perpetuall memory namely a Crosse, signifying Mnemosynen vitæ perpetuæ: that is to say, the remembrance of life everlasting. It was made of a leaden plate, one foote long more or lesse, which I haue beholden with most curiouse eyes, and handled with feareful toyntes in each part, being moued both with the Antiquitie and worthinesse of the thing. It conteyneth vpon it these wordes in those not so greate Romane letters, but indifferent cunningly grauen, viz.

HIC IACET SEPULTVS INCLITVS REX
ARTHVRIVS, IN INSVLA AVALONIE.

But here peradventure some curiouse person would search out for what purpose the inscription was commended to our memory vpon the leaden plates. It was a most vsual manner in that age, and endured euen vntill latter times to bestow vpon Noble mens Tombes leaden plates engrauen. Of which not a fewe haue I seene in every place throughout all Brittain. Leade of his nature is easily engrauen, and when it is once grauen continueth both a very long tyme, and also most firmly, as witnesseth experience. The myne hilles where leade groweth much, are scarce fye miles distant from Aualonia. The Romans as Lordes of riches, were not ashamed to set by a standard of stone vnto Claudius Cesar by a very long table of leade, almost in the very bottomes of those hilles at the heade springes of the fabulas little floude Ochides within the iurisdiction of Fontanus the Bishoppe, engrauen on this manner. TI. CLAVDIO CESARI. AVGVST. P. M. TR. P. VIIII. IMP. XVI. DE BRITAN. This

This was set
vp in places
where ene-
mies were
vanquished by
the Emperour.

Star

Standard of Stone a few yeares past was turned vp out of the earth by the plowe, and translated vnto the house of Thomas Howarde, Duke of Northfolke at London.

In tempo re
regni Henrici
Reg. 3.

CAP. XIII.

The two *Pyrameds* in that religious place.

Within the burying place which was consecrated at Aualonia stand two *Pyramedes* of most auncient buylding, bearing a thew of figures & letters, but the windes, stormes, and time which consumeth all thinges, finally enuy of man from time to time haue so defaced the notable figures and inscription of auncient workes, that they can scarce be discerned by any neuer so sharpe sight of the eye. The continuall travell of writers commendeth these, and specially the diligence of Gulielmus Meildunensis that greate Antiquary: whom also Siluester Geraldus euen he a louer of Antiquities, doth follow at an inche. Doubtlesse both of the handle their matters learnedly: The one whereas by exquisite labour he restored to light a fresh, both titles and figures which were not altogether raced out of knowledge for foure hundred yeares before, according as in his famous and elegant little booke *De Antiquitate Glesoburgensi*, appeareth. The other in that he leaning vnto sound argumentes and relation of auncient writers, proueth that Arthures Tombe was in times past eyther erected betwene the two *Pyrameds*, or in a place not far distant from them. Of Giraldus we will say more in the Tombe of Arthure found.

In the meane time, I wil herevnto annex the description of the *Pyrameds*, artificially purtrayed out by the very pencilles of the same Gulielmus, as it were in a plaine table to the eyes of the beholders. And where as that no doubt is vnknowne vnto all men, I would willingly publish it, (if I could possibly expresse the truth) what those *Pyrameds* do meane, which being erected in a litle space from the olde Church do after a sorte include the Churchgarde of those religious persons.

Within the burying place were set vp 2. *Pyrameds*.

Auncient writers commending the same.

King Arthures Tombe where it was erected.

The meaning and description of those two *Pyrameds*.

Tabularius

Note the blind
nesse of that
time in prefer-
ring a Bishop
before a king.

Undoubtedly the moze statelie, larger, and nearer Pyramed
vnto the Church hath fyue storyes height oꝝ flowers boorded, &
is in height, 26. foote. This although it foreshewes some de-
cay by reason of y^e too much olonessie, yet hath it a few appa-
rant spectacles of Antiquitie, which may be plamely reade, al-
though they can not fully be vnderstode. For in the vpper
story oꝝ floore beoꝝde is made an image in likenesse of a Bi-
shoppe. In the second is an Image expressing a kingly state,
and letters: *Her, Sex, & Bliswerh.* In the thurd neuerthe-
lesse are names. *Wern Cresse, Bantomp, Wincwegn.* In the
fourth. *Hate, Wulfredi & Franslede.* In the fiftie, and which
is the lowest, an image and this wyting. *Logwor. Wesliel*
& Bregdene. Swellwes, Hnyrgendes berne. Vnto the other
Pyramed hath 18. foote height and foure storyes oꝝ flowers
boorded wherein these wordes are reade, *Hedde, Episcopus*
& Bregorred & Bearwalde. What these may signifie I do not
rashly define: but I gather by suspicion, that within oꝝ about
the same place are laide in hollow stones the bones of them
whose names are reade on the outside. Surely *Logwor*
for certaine is affirmed to be the person by reason of whose
name *Logweres Bioth*, was so called, which is now called
Montacute. *Beerwalde* neuerthelesse was Abbot after *Hem-*
gisilus. These saith *Meildunensis* (vnto whom the learned
ought to referre these Pyrameds) as from him by all meanes
bezoꝝwed, and most famously set forth. Now y^e lady *Guen-*
hera offereth her selfe to be wyened wth *Arthure* her Husband.

C A P. XIII.

What manner Person *Guenhera* was.

I Want easily beleueed, that *Guenhera* was descended out
of the progeny of the Dukes of Cornwale: both leaninge
vnto other argumentes, and also for this cause specially, that
the History of Brittain makes mention y^e she was brought
vp in y^e Wallas of Cadorus Duke of Cornwale, & also from
hence taken vnto wife by *Arthure.* The coniecture is, and
that not altogether vncertaine this name of *Guenhera*
foundeth in the British language the same that *Bella Dona*
both

Where the
Lady *Guenhe-*
ra was brought
vp.

both in the Italian & in frech. Belle Dame, no doubt the name was given for some fame: as Guenllea, that is White or fayre Leonora, or of coniecture Helena: so as the worde White may signifie faire, beautifull, or amiable. But as it is sufficiently apparant that she was beautifull, so it is a thing doubted, whether she was chaste yea or no. Truly so far as I can with honestie I would spare the impayred hono2 and fame of noble womē: But yet the truth of the hystorie pluckes me by the eare, & willethe not onely, but commandeth me to declare what the Ancients haue deemed of her. To wrestle or contend with so greate authoritie were in deede vnto me a controuersie and that greate. The hystorie of Brittain affirmeth, that she had not onely carnall knowledge of Mordred the Picke, but also that she was ioyned to him in mariage. Miscchiefe, Mlewd life, M filthy dayes.

Her description.

Beautie & Chastitie seldom agree inuolubly.

The writer of the hystorie of Gildas is in deede an Ancient Autho2, (but in mine exemplar that same Anonymus) declareth these things of Guenhera the adulteresse.

Anonimus.

Arthure in despite of Melua the ruler, beseged the ferryng countries neare vnto Glesconia: which noble man had desired Guenhera being stolne away and caried thether. This testimonie as touching a Queene, though hee say she was stolne away, is scarce honourable. Women of such beauty are now and then stolne away by their owne good will. How soeuer it was, most assured is this, that she liued no long time after the Death of her Husband, and the Adulterer. But whether through any disease of the bodie, or with vnfayned sorowe she dyed (which I doe sooner beleue) it appeareth not playnely. Writers make mention, that she heeing mooued with repentance did put vpon her a holy Veyle at Ambrosia, and that there she dyed and was also there buried, vntill both the diligence and also Gouernesse of Sir Lancelot the most courteous and most inuincible knight had translated the bones and ashes afterwarde vnto Aualonia. Heere aryleth a doubt against the suspition of this Adulterie.

A writers testimonie touching Guenhera.

Sir Lancelot, knight, a friend of Guenhera after her death.

Whether so notable a Lover or friend of Arthure, and the same a reuerencer of his royaltie had committed such a fact that hee would burie the Adulteresse in the most Religious place,

Nota.
where she was
buried.

place so neare her husbands graue in the earth. The history of the cloister at Glastebury which was diligently collected, fully sheweth that Guenhera was buried in the religious place neare her husbands Tombe, and that her bones and ashes were found the same time that her husbands were.

Siluester Giraldus Menenesis confirmeth this in his booke De Institutione Principis speaking of Arthure in these wordes.

Siluester Giraldus his testimony both of Arthure & of Guenheras dead corpses.

For hee had two wiues, whereof in deede the last was buried with him, and her bones founde at one time with her husbandes bones, so yet separated that the two parts of the graue towards the head, namely (which should containe the bones of her husband) had beene ascribed vnto him: But the third part at the feete contained the bones of a woman vpwades. Where as also a yeallow locke of a womans haire, with the former integrity & colour was found, which as a certaine Moncke desirously caught vp in his hand & lifted it vp, it altogether streightway perished into dust or powder.

De Soliaco.

The same Giraldus recyteth such like matters in his booke intituled Speculo Ecclesiastico: Hee doubtlesse might well with some authority speake concerning this geare, for so much as, euen then he (being established in the fauour of K. Richard coeur de Lion, king of England) came the very same time that the Sepulchre was found at Glastenbury, and as an eye witness (by cognition of Henry de Soliaco nephew vnto K. Henry by Adela and cosen germaine of K. Richard being the president of Glastenburie, but afterwards Bishop of Winchester) learned full and whole all things which vnto Arthure appertained.

Yet notwithstanding, if it were lawfull for me heere to speake all things which I thinke, I would sorely asseure that those things are of farre better credite, which are deliuered vs of Arthures buryall, then of Guenheras. And yet woulde I not doe any iniurie vnto the Authority of Auncient writers, that euen the posteritie in time to come myght not handle mine Authority or allegation in a worse manner. At Glastenbury vpon the Tombe

of

of Lydias Marble or Touchstone Artificially engrauen (and erected for Arthure and also for Guenhera) these two little verses, sauyng of that his time, are written in this manner.

Arthures and
Guenheras
Tombe erected
at Glattenbury.

Hic iacet *Armi coniu x tumulata secunda.*

Her Epitaph.

Quæ meruit cœlos, Virtutum prole fecunda.

The second wife of Arthure beere, entombed so doth ly,

Who for the fruites of Vertuous life deserved the heauens on hye.

There bee which say that Henry Suynesius Abbot of Glattenbury was the composer of these verses: Except any man thinke that Henry Blesensis alias Soliacensis chaunged his name into Suynesius, in whose time the bones and ashes both of Arthure and also of Guenhera were founde.

But what Giraldus & Henricus do meane by the name of Second wife, truly I doe not sufficiently vnderstand. For so much (as I can remeber) I haue neither hard of the name nor memorie of a second wife vntill this day.

But let credite remaine with Authoꝛs: by the latter part of the second litle verse (*Virtutū prole fecūda*) it appeareth y Guenhera was more vertuous the apt to beare chldꝛ. Neither am I ignorant what Boetius writeth here, that in times past there was a sharp battle fought betweene Arthure and Mordred, at the river of Hūber, and y Guenhera being eu there caried away of y Picts, into their tents, afterwards died and was buried at Horestia in the streete Angusia. But I leaue Hector to the reporte of Veremūdus & Turgotus those obscure wꝛiters. And it might so bee, that the Tombe was there erected for another Guenhera not Queene.

Nota.
How Guenhe-
ra was stolne a-
way of the
Pictes.

CHAP. XV.

K. Arthures Tombe found.

When the Saxones perceiue greiue to some foꝛce after Arthures death, & that the Picts & Scots by and by were put to flight, & chased away beyond the vale of Seuerne,

After Arthures
death, the Sax-
ons florished,
but the Brit-
taines perished

The Assertion of

The same Saxones began not so much to feare, and much lesse to esteeme of, but rather openly to set at nought the remnauntes of those vanquished Brittaines. Wherefore, the glory of them beganne to flourish, but of the Brittaines to decrease and fade away: Yet so, as the Saxones left almost nothing (touching affaires passed betwene them and the Brittaines) at that time perfectly written for the posteritie.

Saxones were negligent in the fame of Britones their posteritie.

For, those things which were written (after Christ was knowne vnto them) concerning the first victories of the Saxones, are deliuered by the reportes of the common people, & so receiued, and in writings so committed: or els the Brittaines being vtterly worne away by so many battles, bestowed scarce any iust or right diligence in writing of the historie. Only there are extant certaine fragments of Gildas the Moncke of the City Bangor rather slaying alive, dismemb'ring, and wounding to death the Brittaines, then allowing them with any value of vertue, so farre forth as he seemeth a Rethorician thorowly moued to make euill reporte. By this meanes were the affaires of Brittain, through calamitie of battles left obscure or vnbayled. The historicall singers onely studied to preserve alio with muscicall meanes the famous memorie of Nobles in those daies. They sung the famous facts of noble personages vpon the harp. This studie or practise wonderfully profited knowledge, as it were deliuered by hand vnto posterity. Whereupon in deede it so cometh heere to passe alio, that the name, fame, and glory of Arthure might so be preserved after a sorte.

John Stowe

Bardi were such as sung to the harpe, the famous fittes of noble personages.

O factum bene.

Si quid mea Carmina possunt,
Aonio statuam sublimis vertice Bardos,
Bardos Pieridum cultores, atq; canentis,
Phœbi delicias, quibus est data cura perennis,
Dicere nobilium clarissima facta virorum
Aureaq; excelsam famam super astra locare.

The English.

O well done.

If any thing my verses may auayle,
These stately singers then aduance Will I,

That

That high Parnassus mount for to assaile.

As singers honouring the Muses friendes duly,

And Phoebus his delights singing sweetly.

The famous actes of noble men to blase,

And stately fame I th golden beaueus to place.

William A Norman had conquered the Nation of
 Englishmen by permission of God, and now came
 the kingdome of England, vnto Henry the second of that
 name. Apphew by Matildes the daughter of Henry Beau-
 clercke, and the Sonne of Geoffry Plantagenet, Duke of
 Gaunt. This man endeouzing by all meanes to enlarge
 the limittes of his kingdome, applyed also his minde
 vnto the kingdome of Ireland. Richard of Clare
 Erle of Chepstowe, (so called by reason of the wanderinge
 Riuer) a man both most noble by birth, fortune, and vertue,
 went into Ireland, beeing befoze requested of Deronutius
 the ruler of Lagenia, so to do: in which expedition hee beha-
 ned him selfe so valiantly, that (they being cast out by heapes
 put to flight, and vanquished which withstood the Ruler)
 he purchased him selfe fame an immortall glozy and (if this
 also might any thing auaille to the purpose) he obtayned he-
 sides greate riches vnto him selfe thereby, taking to wife E-
 ua the daughter of Deronicius, and heire by right nough.
 King Henry had vnderstanding of the successe of Richard
 the Erle of Chepestowe, and whether he enuyed his glozy,
 or (which is most like) that hee earnestly sought the pray of
 this rich kingdome, hee forbade this Richard in the meane
 time to beare rule in Ireland, not disdayning yet to proffer
 him reward. He being wise, fully knowing the Princes pur-
 pose, gave place vnto his right. In the meane season
 Henry hauing prepared no small part of an Host, came into
 Cambria or Wales, and purposing there to appoynt the resi-
 due, he thence straight sayled from Menecia or Sanct Davids
 into Ireland, with hope of which kingdome to obtaine, hee
 burned as hote as fire. Whiles he busieth him selfe here a-
 boutes being (so) his worthinesse as befitted) receyued of
 the Gouernoures of Wales, at his banquettes there (vnto

Anno. 1067.
 a Christo nato.

1154. Regni.
 Anno. 1.

1154. Regni.
 Anno. 1.

Giraldus. Cam-
 brensis calleth
 him Richard
 Strongbowe
 Earle of Chip-
 stow.
 Iohn stow.

1157. Regni.
 Anno. 3.

Iohn stow.

The Assertion of

King Henry
the second for
his vallancy
compar'd to
K. Arthure and
was inquisiue
after his mo-
nument.

King Arthures
Tombe found
Anno Ric. Re-
gis. 1.

Siluester Gi-
raldus
Milnsbury.

The place
where King
Arthure his
Tombe was
found at that
time and the
manner thereof

an Interpreter) he gaue eare not without pleasure vnto the
historiall singers, which singe to the Harpe famous actes
of noble men. Truly there was one amongst the rest most
skillfull in knowledge of Antiquitie. He so sung the praises
and noble actes of Arthure comparing Henry with him as
Conquerour in time to come for many respectes, that hee
both wonderfully pleased, & also delighted the Kings eares:
at what tyme also þ King learned this thing especially of the
historiall singer, that Arthure was buried at Aualonia in the
religious place. Whereupon sending away the saide sin-
ger as witnesse of such a monument most liberally rewar-
ded, he had conference with Henricus Elesensis, alias Soli-
acensis his nephew, who euen then or a litle after was made
of an Abbot in the Isle of Bermundsege, cheife Spagistras
ouer Glasterbury that he might with most exquisite diligẽce
search out thorowly the Tombe or burying place of Arthure
within the compasse of that religious house. It was assayed
by him otherwhiles and at length founde out with greates
difficulty, in the last dayes, as some suppose of Henry the se-
cond, King of England: but as others thinke (vnto whom
I easily assent) in the beginning of the raigne of Richard the
first, his Sonne.

Toucheing both this searching for, and finding out of the
bones, two persons specially amongst others haue writtten
their mindes: of which two one was a Moncke of Glaster-
bury, and by name unknowne to me, but the other was Sil-
uester Giraldus. Furdermore there had beene herunto
added also Gulielmus Meildunensis, as the third witnesse
to be conferred with them both, but that death had taken him
away in his aged yeares before the Sepulchre or Tombe was
found. The testimonies of these men will I vse especially,
and at this instant I will bring hether the wordes of Anno-
nymus the Moncke. King Arthure was entombed, like as
(by K. Henry þ second) Henry þ Abbot had learned, whose
cosen germane & familer friend he of late was. But þ King
had often times heard this out of the actes of the Brittaines &
of their historiall singers, that Arthure was buried neare
vnto the old Church in the religious place betweene two
Pyra-

Pyramedes in times past, nobly engrauen, and erected as it is reported for the memory of him.

And King Arthure was buried verie deeply for feare of the Saxons, whom he had often times vanquished, & whome he had altogether reiecte d out of the Isle of Brittain. And whome Mordred his mischeenous Nephew had first called backe againe and brought thither against him: least they (should also with mallice of minde raige in crueltie towards the deade body) which had laboured by tooth & naile euen now to possesse againe the whole Island after his death. Againe for and in respect of the same feare, he was laide in a certaine brynde stone, (as it were at a graue) found of them which digged there, of seauen foote as it were vnder y^e earth: when yet notwithstanding Arthures Tombe was founde moze lower, of nyne foote depth. There was mozeouer founde a leaden crosse not set into the vppermost but rather neathermost parte of the stone, hauing thereon these letters engrauen. **HIC IACET SEPULTVS INCLITVS REX ARTHVRIVS IN INSULA AVALONIE.**

And the Crosse taken out of the stone, (the saide Abbot Henry shewing the same) we haue seene with our eyes, and haue reade these letters. But like as the Crosse was insired to the neathermost parte of the stone: So that parte of the crosse engrauen (to the ende it might bee moze secreete) was turned towarde the stone. Doubtlesse a wonderfull industrie and exquisite wisdome of the men in that age, who by all endeoures desired to hide in secret manner the body of so greate a personage, and their Soueraigne Lord, especially the Patrone of that place, by reason of the instant troubled state: And who yet had further care that at one o^r other time afterwarde (when the trouble surceased, by the perfect order of those letters engrauen in the Crosse and found out other whiles) they might make apparant testimonies of his buriall.

And as the foresaide King Henry had befoze declared, all the matter to the Abbot: so the boay of Arthure was found not in a marble Tombe (as it befitte so notable a King)

Nota
His inscription
& the subtile
deuise of the
Workmen in
those dayes.

King Arthure
buried in a
wooden
Tombe of 16.
foote deepe.

not in a stony place, or graven out of the white Paris stone, but rather in a wooden Tombe made hollow for this purpose, and of sixtene foote deepe in the earth, more for the ha-
stie then the honourable burying of so pyssant a Prince, that
tune of trouble requyryng the same.

An. 1. Ricardo
Regis. pmi.

Anno Domini. 1182. The King besetting the place, with Caldozons, on a certaine day, commanded them to digge there. Wherehence the Delvers hauing searched an exceeding depth, & now almost being past hope, beholde yet they found out a wooden Tombe of a wonderfull greatnesse fast closed rounde aboute. Which being lift vp, and opened, they found therein the kinges bones of an incredible bignesse, so as the bone of his shinne, might reach from the ground vnto the middle of the legge in a tall man. They also found a leadeen crosse on the other side. Thus engrauen. HIC IACET SEPULTVS INCLITVS REX ARTHVRIVS IN INSVLA AVA LONIE.

King Arthures
Tombe found
where as also
the Queene
was with him
laide.

Wherehence they opening the Tombe of the Queene buried with Arthure founde a pealow Locke of womans heare, both faire of it selfe, and also twisted together with wonderfull curiositie: which when they had touched, mouldred away too nothing. Then the Abbot and his convent, taking vp their Lynements (translated the same with ioy into the greater Church, placing them in a new Tombe (nobly engraued and pulished in the inwarde partes) after a twofold fashion: What is to say, the kinges body by it selfe at the heade of the Tombe: The Queene, at the fecte of him, namely in the Caste parte: where, vntill this day present, they honourably take their rest. But this Epitaph is engrauen vpon their Tombe.

Their transla-
tion vnto an
other place.

King Arthures
old Epitaph.

Hic iacet *Arthurus* flos regum, gloria regni,
Quem, mores, probitas, commendant laude perenni.
*Here lyeth Arthure the floure of kinges, & glory of his kingdome,
Whome life and honestie commende with lasting praise to come.*

Thus farre most diligently, and also most faithfully haue
we conuerted these things out of þe booke at Glassebury into this present bse. But because the Epitaph seemeth
vnto me to sound out I knowe not what after the manner
of

of a harsh grating instrument, and to draw with it the faultes
of that age scarce eloquent, as also finally to be more bryefe &
bale the might seeme conuenient for so mightie a Monarcke,
wee haue dedicated another therfore (in commendation of
him) vnto the Sacred memoize and posteritie of the lear-
ned, viz.

Saxonicas toties qui fudit marte cruento
Turmas, & peperit spolijs sibi nomen opimis.
Fulmineo toties *Pictos* qui contudit ense,
Imposuitq; Iugum *Scottis* ceruicibus ingens.
Qui tumidos *Gallos*, *Germanos* quiq; feroces
Perculit, & *Dacos* bello confregit aperto:
Deniq; *Mordredum* è medio qui sustulit illud
Monstru, horrendu ingens, diru seuumq; Tyranu,
Hoc iacet extinctus monumento *Arturius* alto,
Militiæ clarum Decus, & Virtutis Alumnus:
Gloria nunc cuius terram circumuolat omnem,
Ætherijq; petit sublimia tecta tonantis.
Vos igitur gentis proles generosa *Britannia*
Induperatori ter magno assurgite vestro:
Et tumulo sacro *Roseas* inferte Corollas,
Officij telles redolentia munera vestri.

The English.

He that so oft the Saxons troupes, in bloody fight did foile,
And got him fame by noble facts, with manie a full rich spoile,
He that with fierie fl. shing sworde, so oft the Picts destroide,
And laid a yoke vpo the Scots, their necks which greatly noide.
He that did daunt the lofty Fréch, & Germanes fierce did smite
With open war the Dacians, & then force did vanquish quite.
He lasty which bereft of life Mordred that Mōster thoe,
Both horrible mightie Dyre, and cruell tyrant foe:
Arthure (euen he) lieth buried in this lofty monument,
Of warlike force the garland braue, & friend to Vertue bent.
Whose glorie now & greate renowne, shieth all the world about,
And mounts vnto the climates be of thūdering skies throughout,
Ye Gentlemanlie Offspring then of Brittaines nation braue,
Towardes this so puissant Emperor, due Honor see you haue.
And on his Tombe gay garlands lay of Roses fragrant smell,
Sweete sauiouring giftes as witnesses, your duties forth to tell.

Iohannis Ley-
landij Anti-
quarij Encomi-
on funerales
In vitam, facta
mortemq; Re-
gis Arthuri in
christum.

John Leyland
Antiquary his
funerall com-
mendation vp-
on y life, deeds
& death of the
most Noble K.
Arthure.

Silueſter Giraldus his testimony of Arthure his Tombe found.

Now in ſit time comes forth Silueſter Giraldus, that ſame eye witneſſe of Arthures bones and aſhes found, and aptly adioyneth his accounte vnto theſe wordes.

And his body (which as it were fantaſticall in the end and as it were by ſpirites tranſlated vnto places a farre off, and not ſubiect vnto death, fables ſo fully had ſayned) was in theſe our dayes by wonderfull and as it were meruailous tokens founde out buried more deeper in the earth at *Glaſtenburie* betweene two Pyrameds, in old time ſet vp within the religious place, and by a hollow Oake marked or knowne, & was with honor tranſlated into the Church, & decetly beſtowed in a Marble Tombe. Whereupon a leaden croſſe being engrauen in the ſtone not in the vpper part as it is accuſtomed (but on the lowermoſt part rather) which wee alſo haue ſcene (for we haue handled the ſame) conteyned theſe letters engrauen and not eminent and extant, but rather inwardlie turned to the ſtone.

HIC IACET SEPULTVS INCLITVS REX
ARTVRIVS IN INSULA AVALONIA.

And theſe wordes ſollowe euen there. And ſeeing there were ſome euident tokens of finding the bodie there by his inſcriptions, and ſome by the Pyramedes engrauen (although as very much defaced and ouerworne by too much oldneſſe of time:) yet moſt chiefly and moſt euidentlie did *Henry the ſecond* king of *England* declare and manifeſt ſull and whole vnto thoſe Monches, according as he had harde of that auncient hiſtoricall Poetician the *Brittaine*: namely that they ſhould finde him buried deeply in the earth ſo, xvi. foote at the leaſt, & not in a Tombe of ſtone, but in a hollow Oake. And therefore his body (being laide and as it were hidden ſo deepe, to the end that it might not be founde of the Saxons, inhabiting the Iſland after his death, whome he in his life time had ſo puſſantly ſubdued & almoſt deſtroyed) might ſcarcelly at any time be found.

A wiſe pollycy of workme in thoſe dayes.

And ſo this cauſe were the letters as testimonies of truſth engrauen vpon the croſſe turned inwardes to the ſtone, to the end they ſhould at that time kepe in ſecret, what they conteyned and that ſometime alſo according to the place & time requiſite)

requisite) they might discover or manifest that same meaning. Wherefore also he writeth these words even in the same place. We must also know that the bones of Arthures bodie which were found, were so greete, that euē that saying of the poet might seeme in these words to be fulfilled,

Grandiaq; effossis mirabitur ossa Sepulchris.

*And the Tombes being digged forth right:
He shall inuaine at the greates bones in sight.*

For the bone of his shinne being layde to the shinne of a most tall person (which also the Abbot sheweth vs) and as it was fastned vnto that ground neare vnto his foote, reached it selfe largely, thre fingers ouer his knee.

The largnesse
of K. Arthures
Lineaments.

Also the scalp of his head as it were a wonder or spectacle, was capable and grosse, in so much as betwene the eye byes and the eyes it largely conteyned a hande bignesse. There appeared in this, tenne or more woundes: all which (except one only greater then the rest which gaped wide and which onely seemed to bee a deadlie wounde) grewe together into one whole scarre. Nowe if it shall auaille any man either to repeate y very selfe same thinges which I haue ere while recited out of Giraldus, or not much unlike to these, let him read his booke viz. Speculum Ecclesiasticū, where as two chapters lightsomly entreat of this matter. In meane time yet I haue somewhat which holds me doubtfull. For Giraldus affirmeth y his burying place was of Wake, which as I doe not strenght way affirms to be false: So I will insinuate those thinges, which vehemently persuade me to y contrary. First, the number of greete Alder trees which by a certaine nature are growing comodious for the ground there. Wherefore agayne, I thinke the inhabitants of Aualonia, were not so ignorant of natural thinges, y they should beleue y Wake would continue longer in somewhat a moyst ground, then the watery Alder tree, which is growing in the grounde.

Nota.
Ten woundes
discerned in his
scalp.

A relation to a
further testimony
of Giraldus. in Specu-
lo Ecclesiasticū
yet partly doubt-
ed.

Alder trees in
Aualony.

They which haue writte of Trees, willingly attribute somewhat moyst ground to be apt both for Alder & Elm trees to be brought forth in the. Where also remaineth another doubt, which, (if I any thing rightly iudge) shall rather seeme a plaine errour, then any doubt at all. Gyraldus confirmeth that Arthures Tombe was founde betwene two

Where Giraldus affirmeth
K. Arthures
Tombe to be
found.

viz. betweene
two Pyramids
at Aualonia ali
as Glaffenbury

A doubt.

Malmesbury.

John Leylands
insertion of fa
mous men for
prooffe of Ar
thures Tombe
found.
Claudius a
Frenchman.

Pyramids in the religious place, at Aualonia: In which o
pinion, (as it were, so confirmed with testimonie of ancient
wyriters) euen I also remaine. But I am so farre frō beleeuing
any thing to be engrauē in thē, which thing Arthures tombe
(as Giraldus declareth y^e verie same) should shew, expresse, or
make famous, that in deede vnto me may appeare nothing
lesse like to be true. If there had beene any such thing, I pray
you who moze truly or moze playnly should haue manifested
y^e same, thē Gulielmus Meildunēsis: vnto whom alone all
posteritie ought to refer both their portraictures & inscriptions.
But hee in deede speaketh not so much as one worde of Ar
thure, whom elswhere he diligently extolleth. Doubtlesse it
is a coniecture probable, that Giraldus was vtterly ignorant
what inscriptions these Pyramids contained, seeing he saith
the letters were woꝛne out by antiquitie or olde of time.

But I let passe Giraldus (a mā truly otherwise learned &
a great & greedy deuourer of ancient knowledge) as I am pro
uoked by another rare not vnprofitable for the purpose:
Namely that I should not onely by the testimonie of two,
whom I haue aboue named, but also by a full number of wy
ters, confirme, establish, and persuaade as it were ratified, Ar
thures Tombe founde. Also to the end that that thing may
moze commodiously be done, I thinke there are causes agree
able why I may moze profoundly repeate all and singuler
testimonies of famous men within a certaine conuenient and
euydent scope of matter. In which behalf Claudius a frēch
man (to the end the reader may vnderstand that the credible
repor of Arthures Tombe found hapned euen vnto straun
gers byright and perfect) shall be a greate witnesse in matter
abundant.

Anno 1217. The bodie of Arthure that Reble king of
Brittaine, (which had lyen buried. 600. and moe peeres)
was found in the Church of S. Mary at Glaffenbury.

Where, in computation of the peeres, either by the Au
thors negligence (or as moze sincerelie the Interpreter saith)
by the negligence of the booke wyter, did there creepe in a
foule erroꝝ. For, Henry the Secōd of that name king of Eng
land dyed about the peere after Christes byyth a thousand
one

one hundredeth and nyntie: and the Tombe was founde in the first yere of the raigne of King Richard the 1. his sonne. The Cronicles of Persor Abbey doe make relation of these thinges.

Anno Domini
1190.
Persorana.
Iohn Stow,

Anno Domini 1191. the Tombe of Arthure Kinge of Brittain was found at Glasfenbury: the leaden crosse vp on his brest, declaring that his name was there written. Iohannes Fiberius who is also commonly called Beuer, writeth these thinges most briefly, and by way of running it ouer.

Anno Domini
1191.

Anno Domini 1191. were founde at Glasfenbury the bones of Arthure. Matthew Paris Moncke of the Monastery of S. Albane at the racing and seige of that most auncient Cittie Verolanium, nere vnto S. Albones in the Countie of Hartford, thus mentioneth of the Tombe. The bones of the most famous King Arthure were founde at Glasfenbury, laide vp in a certaine most auncient Tombe there, about the which stood erected two most auncient Pyramids wherein the letters were engrauen, but by reason of the too much rudnesse and deformitie they could not be reade. And they were found by this occasion. For as they digged there, to bury a certaine Moncke, which with a vehement desire in his life time, had before wished for this place, as to be therein buried: they founde a certaine close Tombe, vpon the which was put a leade crosse, wherein was engrauen: HIC IACET INCLITVS BRITONVM REX ARTVRIVS, IN INSULA AVALONIA SEPVLTVS. But that place beinge rounde about encompassed with Marish groundes, was in times past called the Isle of *Aualon*, for truth that is the Ile of Aples.

By what
chance Ar-
thures Tombe
was founde (as
Matthew Paris
saith) which
yet Iohn Ley-
lan de affirmes
he neuer
heard of to be
true.

Like as by Good right I fauour verie much the authoritie of this Matthew, so I am soze that a fewe wordes chaunced rebounding to this declaration in the inscription. Certes that which he mentioneth of the Moncke, I neuer hearde of before, neyther doth he so farre so, th perswade mee of the truth.

Ranulphus Higeden of Chester
Higeden of Chester
Higeden mentioneth of Ar-
thures Tombe

Ranulphus Higeden of Chester also maketh mention of

The Assertion of

King Arthure his Tombe. I omit to mention other Authors, and that with employed diligence, because I would not seeme to affectate the number of witnesses in a matter so manifestly knowne and credited.

C A P. XVI.

The Translation of King Arthures bones.

I Remember that in my Epistle dedicatory, I have spoken of Arthures Lyneamentes, thres times translated. Whereof, which was the first, (because it appeareth not euident enough by the greater Church at Glastenbury, from whence they write these were first of all conueyed) I will somewhat moze manifestly and moze lightsomely notify. I learned of the Monches at Glastenbury most diligent referuers no doubt of the Antiquitie pertayning to their Cloyster, that Arthures Lyneamentes were translated into the greate Church (which worke was greatly augmented by the liberallitie of Henry Plantagenet) from the religious place: but not laide in that place at that time where they now be. There is a porch towarde the South parte, and a Chappell from whence they go into the Treasury. In this place then affirmed that Arthures bones remayned for a certaine season: after that againe, that they were translated into the middle Isles of the Queare.

Arthures
bones & ashes
translated into
the greate
Church at
Glastenbury.

The remo-
uing of them
into the middle
Isles of the
Queare.

By which interchaunge of time, a newe, stately, and magnificent Tombe out of blacke Marble (such as we see the Lydian or tutch Stone) was both heauene and cut out, & at that time together framed, by vnaccustomed workmanshippe and witty deuise: concerning which, and also the translation thereof, to write at this present, it were undoubtedly a needlesse thinge, seeing that in the chapter before going touching Arthures Tombe founde, all those matters appeare together in their order. Therefore let our history apply it selfe vnto the third translation: which was made in y^e dayes of Edward, sirnamed Longshanke, K. of England not only the best patron of Arthures praise, but also y^e loner, & great reuerencer of his fame, when as all y^e Lyneamentes of them remayning

The third translation of King Arthure in the dayes of King Edward, sirnamed the long, alias the first of that name.

in the most stately Tombe (where they tooke their rest together before) laying the shinne bones of the King, and of the Queene, which he commaunded to be kept abroade, it was no doubt a spectacle of Antiquitie very acceptable vnto the nobilitie thither resorting. And to the ende now that so noble a beede of King Edward (who neuer enough can bee commended) may enjoy eternall fame: I will recyte al and singular such testimonies hetherunto pertayning, as were most faithfully taken out of the Arches of the Monastery of Glasterbury, Authour of which things also was the same Monck of Glasterbury, who had in him a most earnest care to extoll Arthure with due commendations, and with a sounde faith to aduance vnto the posteritie these actes done by him. The wyter neyther wanted lightsome order, nor wit in handling his matters: But that age had neyther familiarly Greeke nor Latine eloquens. What manner thynges so euer these bee, as he wyte them, so will I recyte them in order, yet pondering by the way, that poynt in time conuenient: not with how greate elegancie, but how worthy and how true those thynges are, which he maketh mention of.

Anno Domini 1276. King Edward, the Sonne of Henry the thirde came with the Queene his wife vnto Glasterbury. But vpon Tewesday next folowing the Kinge and all his Court was entertayned there at the Monasteries charges. On which day in the twyilight time he caused to be opened Arthures Tombe, where, (in two Coffines theire portraictures and Armes being depainted thereon) hee founde the bones of the saide Kinge, of a wonderfull thickenesse and largenesse seperated. The picture of the Queene in deede was made with a Crowne vpon her heade. The Crowne of the Kinges picture was made lyinge downe, with the abscision of his left eare, and with the euident signes of that wounde whereof hee dyed. vpon euery one of these was founde a manifest plaine inscription.

The day folowing, namely being wednesday, the Kinge shutting vp the Kinges bones, and the Queene his wife the Quenes bones, folded vppe in seuerall wappers

The same King and his wife. viz. King Arthures Tombe.

King Edward the first, and Queene Elyanor his wife behold King Arthurs Image & the Quenes his wife with their inscriptions.

of

Their commandment made for preservation of the Lyniamentes of K. Arthure & his Queene entombed, & for continuall reservation of their memorie.

of precious p̄servatines and putting to their scales, commanded that the same Tombe should be with all speerds placed before the hye Altar, outwardly retaining still the heaves of them both to be seene, engraven by reason of the zeale of the people, inwardly setting therein such a like sentence. Hæc sunt ossa nobilissimi Regis *Arthurij* quæ Anno Dominicæ incarnationis, 1278. Decimo calend. Maij per. Dominum *Edwardum* Regem Angliæ illustrem hic fuerunt sic collocata, p̄sentibus *Leonora* serenissima eiusdē Regis consorte, & filia Domini *Edwardi* Regis Hispaniæ: Magistro *Gulielmo* de *Midleton*, tunc *Notwicensi* electo Magistro. *Thoma* de *Becke*, Archidiacono Dorce- tensi & predicti Regis Thesaurario, Domino *Henrico* de *Lassey* comite *Lincolniæ*, Domino *Amadio* comite *Saban- diæ*, & multis magnatibus Angliæ. Thus farre mentio- neth the Spöncke of *Glastenbury*.

William Par-
in an enemy
of K. Arthures
fame.

So now William Parvus together with the successeur in place, and stoutly deny thou that eyther Arthure lived not, or was not victorious in times past. Surely thou shalt ney- ther haue me partaker, nor favourer, no nor yet one in leue with thine opinion, nay rather error, at any time. Un- doubtedly it were a greate and greuous crime, nofensely woorthie of stripes, but also of all kinde of punishment; if any man should derogate from her the glozy due to his Cuntrie, should enuy the fame of his Princes, which haue most iustly deserued well of the common weale, and should not finally stand by with valiancy and famous actes by all meanes to adorne and illustrate the same.

John Leylades
pention to the
friendly Rea-
ders.

Truly, I hope (most friendly Readers) it will fall out, (that the equitie of the cause being knowne) and also þ truth; I shall haue you my friendly helpers therein: and that (such is your good will, humanitie, and integritie) you will also willingly render me thankses for my duty towards the com- mon weale. In the meane time I trusting to this good ses- tune will doublelesse endeuer all that I may, so as having taken a fresh courage vnto me, and that most confirmed, I may boldly enterprise to luche with hand to hand, and by might and maine ouermatch the broode of backbeters which

importunately, greedously, and enviously murmur at, and inueigh against the commendations of Arthure, soz so, as it were to make an end of my worke, haue I by all means determined with my selfe.

CHAP. XVij.

A confutation and ouerthrow of Slaunders rashly affirming that Arthure was not liuing.

Historiographers do contend, and as yet the controuersie is before the iudge, at what time Arthure flourished. And this contention hath so increased, and gathered force, that doubts, (concerning vniuersall credite of the historie, which declareth his exploits done) as yet sticke to the feeble concepts of the Readers.

Writers vary-
ing what time
K. Arthure li-
ued.

But this is to weake a slander, that it needes not any diligent answer. Valerius saith that he flourished in the time of Zenon the Emperour. But Hector Boetius reporteth in the time of Iustinian the Barbarians then inhabiting Italy. Finally others write other wise: concerning the time I doe not much force vpon, were it euen now. Although yet from hence, the time is easily gathered, namely from the raigne of Aurelius Ambrosius, of whome also Paule the Deacon makes mention. Perhaps some of the aduersaries will say, Now comes it to passe, that Paule remembreth not Arthure? I answer, Paule had other matters to busie himselfe with, then doubtfully to make famous the Brittaines, which were not as yet forsake of the Romans. In y^e meane time he takes away nothing from Arthures dignitie or historie, because he is not named of him: seeing by the way a good number of noble personages throughout the whole worlde are of the same Autho^r passed over with silence.

Valerius.
Hector Boeti-
us.

Paulus Diaconus.

Undoubtedly y^e seemeth to haue greafe effect, where as Gildas the wyter of Brittainc wytes nothing at all of Arthure. Where be which cite the testimonie of Gildas, both in his fauour and praise also. But that Gildas in deede is a Gildas a fabler, fabler,

Maridunensi.

fabler, and layde forth as an open p[re]sent unto silly wo[m]en
and Moathes, at Oxenforde, in the 14th year.

Gildas his historie is published abroad of Polidorus, un-
doubtedlie a fragment of y^e old Gildas, but it is lame, out of
order, and maimed, so farre forth, as if he were now againe
restored to life, the father would scarce knowe his chyld. It
is evidently knowne that he wrote booke which by him
were entituled Cambriedos, found out eight hundred yeres
and moze agoe in the Ilandes of Ireland, and caried over in
to Italy. Admitte the Historie of Gildas bee true: How
coule he as an eye witnesse declare any thing true of Ar-
thure, when he him selfe saith, y^e he was borne in the peere
when the battle was fought at Bathe, where Arthures victo-
rie (and that in deepe most famous) fell unto him, as Nen-
nius witnesseth. The enemy gathereth. Gildas makes no
mention at all of Arthure: Ergo he was neuer living. Un-
doubtedly a subtile gathering, such a one as this is: Gildas
rememb[er]eth not Aruiragus, Lucius, or Constantine the
greate, and therefore they were not living. O strange force of
Logicke! And yet being hartened with this so weake argu-
ment (as it seemeth to him in deepe) he thinkes he hath easily
gotten the best game. Is this an Italian reason? For certai-
nly, now can I hardly any longer abyde to be called Ultramo-
tanus, or one that goeth beyond his boundes: And sure-
ly why?

Cælum non animum mutant, qui trans Mare currunt.
The ayer, not mind change they.

Which take their voyage over the Seay.

I know yet in the meane time, what y^e Wealch Writers doe
iudge of Gildas his silence, so much as unto Arthure apper-
taineth: namely, for that Hoel the cosengermaine of Gildas
was slaine of Arthure: this was y^e cause his name was neg-
lected. But I will not so much rest vpon this helpe or sauegard:
being rather ready to fight out the battle with him, because
(as vnthankfull and the same scarce wise, I will not say vn-
gobly) he hath blemished his countymen the Brittaines
with this blot or error of his.

Britanni nec in Bello fortes, nec in pace fideles.

Sure

Gildas an vn-
thankfull per-
son & reproch-
full towards
his countrie of
Brittaine.

surely but that I should seeme to fauour mine owne af-
fection, as feeds the choller of my stomake, I my selfe woulde
beere coragiously enioyce my weapō & that in deede sharpe as
gainst this stādorous enemy of þ Brittaines. But I will mo-
derate mine anger, being ready to bying hether from another
place (amongst these) most valiant or stout defēders of þ truth,
least mine affectiō may seeme to haue inuired any man.

Siluester Giraldus in his Topographia or description of
Wales promisseth that he will answer this slander of Gil-
das, in his Topographie or description of Brittain: which
booke þ he hath so writte in times past, I doubt not, but so far
as I know it is not in these our dayes extant in any place.
What hee in meane while writeth in his 2. booke of þ Des-
criptiō of Wales, I wil now amongst others bying sozth to
light. But so; so much as Iulius Cesar, who was such a mā,
ner of mā, as þ testimony of the whole worlde vnder Cassiui-
lane þ Duke sheweth, viz. when, as Lucane þ poet saith.

Territa quæ sitis ostendit terga Britannis.

Unto the Brittaines by him sought,
He shewd his trembling backe for nought.

Were not those Brittaines balliant and coragious persons?
Againe, what were they whē Bellinus & Brennius added þ
Romane Emperre vnto their victories? what were they in
daies of Constantine the Emperor, & sonne of Helen some-
time heere Queene? what were they in þ raigne of Aurelius
Ambrosius Anno, post Christ. 466. whom also Paule the
Deach extolleth with praises? And to cōclude, what fellows
were they in þ daies of our famous Arthure. An. post Christ
516. Iosephus the wyter brought vp at Exceter in Deuon-
shire in his booke Antiochides, thus singeth.

Inclita fulsit.

Posteritas Ducibus tantis, tot diues Alumnis,
Tot fecunda Viris præmerent qui viribus orbem,
Et fama veteres. Hinc *Constantinus* adeptus,
Imperium, Romam tenuit, Bizantion auxit.
Hinc Senonum ductor, captiua Brennius vrbe,
Romuleas domuit, flammis Victricibus artes,
Hinc & sœua satus, pars non obscura tumultus.

L 3

Civilis,

Siluester Giral-
dus promised
to confute the
slanders of Gil-
das.

Nota.
Siluester Giral-
dus his praise
of the Brit-
taines.
Anno. ante
Christ. natiuit.
50.

An. ante Christ.
natiuitat. 407.
Post Christum
107.
Brittaines al-
waies appro-
ued valiant
persons, & cul
in Arthure his
time. An. 540.
lfcz,

Laudes veteris
Heroum. & Re-
gi Arthuri
præcipue.

Ciuilis, magnum solus qui mole soluta
 Obsedit, meliorq; stetit pro *Cæsaris* murus.
 Hinc celebri fato felici floruit ortu,
 Flos Regum *Arthurus*: Cuius cum facta stupori
 Non mi:cuere minus, totus quod in aure volaptas,
 Et populo narrante fauus, Quæcunq; priorum,
 Inspice: *Peleus* commendat fama Tyrannum,
 Pagina *Cæsareos* loquitur formosa triumphos,
 Alciden doniitis attollit gloria monstris,
 Sed, nec *Pinetum Coryli*, nec sydera solem
 Equant. Annales Latios, *Cratiosq;* reuolue.
 Prisca parem nescit, æqualem Postera nullum
 Exhibitura dies. Reges supereminet omnes
 Solus, præteritis melior maiorq; futuris.

The English.

Noble Posteritie.

The praises of
 ancient Poten-
 tates, & amo-
 gest them of
 K. Arthure espe-
 cially.

With so great Princes richlie shined, & Patrons so many.
 So stored with men which conquered the world with valiancy.
 And fame extollet h auncients, Hence had Constantine possesst
 The Empyre, Rome he surely kept, and Bizance eke everest.
 Hence Brennus the Italians guide, (in *Cyrie* captured so)
 With conquering flames the stately towers of Rome did overthrow.
 And hence those cruell lapes, a part (of civill traile) not base,
 Alone besiedge their mightie Prince, the huge hoste long posse.
 Defence & sauegarde so, whereby to *Cæsar* was.
 Hence florished by famous fate, & origin prosperous (reilous)
 Arthure the flowre of kinges, whose deedes shined no lesse mar.
 Tho that both peoples eares & tongues did in his praise delue:
 As, if thou view of former wights, what euer bookes recite.
 Fame doth *Peleus* tyrant blaze: and *Romane* histories
 Extoll their *Cæsars* triumphes greate, after their victories.
 Renoume aduanceth *Hercules* subduing monsters greate;
 But not *Coryli*, *Pinetus*, nor *Starres* the *Sunne* his beate
 Coequate, Search the *Cronicles* of *Greekes* & *Latines* both:
 Auncient age knoweth not his like, ne yet postcritie doth
 His march declare. All kinges alone in deede surmounteth he,
 Better then those are dead & gone, Greater then any shall be.

How in what manner these may not answer the
 prayers by Gildas before recyted, the discrete Reader
 at large fully seeth: and perceyue that Arthures commendati-
 ons hereunto (amongst the rest added) to agree so well vnto
 this place, that I almost haue no neede to recker them
 as (I trust) with any fault of mine, but in deede (good Rea-
 ders) if I iudge aright, with your very much pleasure and
 delight. For the verses before going haue their right father
 or author that he in deede should then be liuing. Wherouer
 againe they so pleasantly allure the eares of vncorrupt sense,
 with a certaine apt conuinitie or proper agreement, with
 pure elegancie and equall sweetnesse (that except fancy faile
 me) they shall fully & wholly please the Reader, yea were it so
 that I reckoned them ouer ten times. Ponticus Verunnus
 an Italian but yet one that loued the Brittaines well, beinge
 fully angry with Polidorus the Italian, thundereth forth
 these wordes.

Gildas his for-
 mer dispraise
 of the Brit-
 taines here o-
 uermastered
 with praise
 worthinesse.

Ponticus vi-
 runnus an Ita-
 lian, commē-
 ding the Brit-
 taines.

O admirabile tunc genus Britonum quicumq; (Caesar
 intelligit) bis in fugam expulerunt, qui totum orbem
 submiserat occidentis: Cui quasi totus mundus postea
 nequibat resistere illi etiam fugati resistunt, parati
 pro patria & libertate mortem subire. Which may thus
 be englished.

O wonderfull nation of the Brittaines in that age, which
 twice put him (he meaneth Caesar) to flight, who had conque-
 red the whole west part of the world: whom as it were, when
 the vniuersall world could not resist afterwarde; when they
 them selues being put to flight, resisted, being ready to dy for
 their Country and the libertie thereof.

Whereupon singeth Lucane the Poet vnto their praises, Lucanus
 (writing of Caesar) as before is saide.

Territa quæ sitis offendit terga Britannis.

Vnto the Brittaines by him saugh,

he shewed his trembling backe for naught.

In this place I should rather endeavour to mende the
 matter with multitude of testimonies, then with bryght
 truth of effect, I could also take out of Iohannes Anneuilla-
 nus his Archirenio (that litle booke wittily in praise hand-
 ling

Iohannes An-
 neuillanus in
 Archirenio
 also commen-
 ding the Brit-
 taines.

ling the same) certaine litle verses concerning the valiancy
and prowesse of the Brittaines. For so should I shutte vp
the mouthes of babbling backbiters against the praises of
these Brittaines, and that with a sufficient frontier framed
for the purpose. But me seemeth that I make more a dooe
about these bablers then is conuenient. Let them with shame
enough come to naught and burst their selues in their enuy:
for so much as the honour of Brittain neyther standeth nor
falleth by meanes of such foggy misten. ¶ At by the way,
least I should seeme not mindefull enough of my promise, I
come againe to the encounter ready to vanquish the force of
argumentes which the aduersaries haue gotten. The Ro-
mane writers (say they) made no mention of Arthure,
wherefore, like it is to be true, that he was not liuing.

If no thing be true, but that which appeareth by truth of
Romane writers, it should go euill to passe with the history
of the whole worlde. The infinite force of thinges worthe of
memoiry, and of noble effect consisteth rather of eye witness
at home resident and inhabiting, then of the vncertaine rela-
tion made by foraine writers. For the Romanes made al-
most all the whole worlde bond slaves: and writers which
proceeded amongst them, and were there borne applyinge
their mindes to the study of eloquence, made their owne ex-
ploytes euen admirable or wonderfull: but the enterprises &
actes of other Nations they dyed euen so obscure and debaile,
that almost they made them none at all.

For the matter was so handled by them, that they would
elegantly and not truly pleade their cause. ¶ They painted
out such thinges in writings, which they might rather law-
fully hope for, then see at that time, done by the most prudent
Gouernours. And vndoubtedly maraill it is not, that they
made no remembryance at all of Arthure. The Goathes at
that time had inuaded Italy, and barbarous style with phrase
of writing and speaking was brought in, in steade of elo-
quence, so farre forth, that honour vnto learning was rare, &
rewards for the same, were most rarely vnderstoode off.
And the matter was not handled by writers but by warriors.
Wherefore if any certaine thing were written as touchinge
Arthure

Romanes
carefull for
their owne
fame, but neg-
ligent in all o-
ther mens.

Honour vnto
learning in
times past rare.

Arthure the same might rather bee done of the Brittain
writters what manner persons so ever they were, then of the
nouice and ignorance of the Romanes, not onely declining
from the function or office of writing, but also carefully thin-
king upon their olone wretched estate and calamitie, dayly
saling upon them by many meanes, lettings passe all other
things.

An other byabler after this alledgeth, moze vaine matters
are in Arthures History conteyned then shal they may tolle-
rably be allowed of him that is of ripe iudgement, and discret
knowledge. If he meane touching that History which is
reade amongst the common sorte in the Italian, Spanish,
Frenche and English tongues, I do not much strue with
him. Although the vpright reader shall call to minde, the same
thing hath beene often times done, even in the History each
where foraine of Charles, Rowlande, Godfrey, Guy, and
Bellouse, that I may let passe many others. Neyther yet not
withstanding are their names, or credit of the true History
faken away the moze. It is no noueltie, that men more tri-
flinge toyes with true things, and surely this is even done
with a certaine employment that writters might captivate y
simple common people with a certaine admiration at them
when they heare of marueylouse matters. So was Hercu-
les, so was Alexander, so Arthure, and so was also Charles
commiended. But there is an other farre greater reason in-
cident to the History of Arthure, then I do conceaue of. For
those things which are not apparant in course of ages, which
are not probable, which as aliable helpes agree not with the
credit of Authours, which are not embraced in longer exercise
of y ages, and surderance of learned men, & by them compo-
bate or fully ratified I do not vnadvisedly allow off. Many
yeares againe, Graius the Authour of the booke Schalecro-
nicon (as I suppose) had great contention with this rable
of backbyters. Vnto him was Beda objected, who passed o-
uer Arthure with great silence. Paradventure this holy man
refused to mention y Prince, because he was bozne in adulte-
ry. And it might also be, y when he had heard some one or o-
ther prophecies spoken of him, by those historikal signes y a
lignated

Most puyfant
Personages
haue beene
parcally pray-
sed in truth.

Graius the
Authour of
that booke
Schalecronica
had much a
doe with such
backbiters

The Assertion of

Beda more religiously then Historically addicted.

Nota
The tyranny of the Romish Bishop betweene the Saxons and Brittaines of olde time.

alienated his minde utterly from the whole history. But they neither abbe, nor take away credit. That is most true, where as Beda otherwise a good man and a learned, did not chiefly tenderly esteeme of the glory of Brittaines name, but also despyled or neglected it. For, there was some what a dooe betwene them and the Saxons concerning the rule over Brittain. The Romish Bishoppe practized by all meanes to keepe under his iurisdiction (which he had most wickedly obtayned) the English Saxons. For this cause the Brittaines cursed him. He againe with a certaine hatred moved, sette the Saxons and them together by the eares. Then, I pray you what praises might the Brittaines hope for at the Saxon writers? Undoubtedly, cold commendations or rather none at all. Adoe hereunto, that Beda also was ignorant in the affaires of Brittain before the dayes of Gildas: so farre south as hee neither knew of y^e monument in memory of Arthures Coronation at Ambrosia, nor of y^e fame thereof. A thing credible it is, that the calamitie of those warres, which had consumed and destroyed Churches, together with libraries infinite, had utterly praced out of knowledge, manifest or euident monuments of Antiquitie. Whereupon to him that should then take in hand to write of Antiquitie touching Brittain, all things were most obscure and unknowne. There are which thinke many things haue bene translated into Armorica or the lesser Brittain, although at this day verie fewe things may be hoped for from thence, saving that a fewe notes are extant in most auncient exemplars of the lives of holie men thither repairing, and which intermixe light with darknesse.

William Parvus his flounder of Arthure

Gulielmus Parvus of Bridelington, in his Prologue before his History thus thundereth out his error: Galtridus Hic dictus est, cognomen habens Arthuri, qui diuinationum illarum nenas ex Britannica lingua transtulit, quibus ut non frustra creditur, ex proprio figmento multa adiecit. William Parvus there saith: This man is called Geoffry bearing the surname of Arthure, who translates y^e fabulus Dreames of those prophecies out of y^e Brittain language: whereunto he (as men do not credit

basely

vainelic hath also added many thinges after the deuice and imagination of his owne braine. These wordes uttereth he vpon a stomake and contempte. But I will sing him a contrarie songe enen for ever and a day. That men beleue him in vaine, except he proue this rather by reason, then by naked or playne wordes.

Tell I knowe, and that too well, manie fables and vanities are disperced throughout the whole history of Brittain. Yet, therein are matters (if a man behold the same more thorowly) such as might not be desired without greate hindrance of auncient knowledge, and which being rather read then vnderstood by William Parvus beare not any the we at all of commodity. Againe, I will also heere set downe another honourable testimony, namely not onely touching the Interpreter of the historie, but also concerning Arthure himselfe. Plainly it appeareth, that whatsoeuer thinges this fellow published in writing (concerning Arthure, and Merline to feede his curiositie of the not so discrete persons) were fainedly invented of lying and dissembling Authours. Let him cogge and forge firebrandes times, if hee will. Merlinus was in very deede a man enen miraculously learned in knowledge of thinges naturall, and especially in the science Mathematicall: For the which cause he was most acceptable and that deservingly vnto the Princes of his time, and a farre other manner of man, then that hee would repute himselfe as one subiect vnto his iudgement of any colwed or loytering grosseheaded Sponcke. But I will let passe Arthure and Merline, the one more valiant, the other more learned, then that they ought to regarde eyther the passing or impossibilitie of the common people. And that cometh vnto me a thing most vnequall and against all right, that one Sponcke beareth enuie towardes another Sponcke, which is enen dead and gone. William Parvus might haue hoped for greater history of the liuing, then of the deade persons. This yet by the waye did hee count for aduantage, to strike him that would not strike againe.

Monachus Mo-
naco I. uidet.

But if the spirites of dead men haue any knowledge

of humane matters, he shall so farre perceive that beyond equity and honesty hee beares away no victorie from Geoffrey, that dead is, but that by his wounde he hath procured himselfe a perpetuall wounde and bloodshedde. Neither is there cause why hee should hope for the present helpe of that Phisition Polidorus from the Citie Urbinas, for as much as hee him selfe also languishing of like disease hath very greate neede of a cunning mans cure. And there remaineth as yet another wounde, wherewith W. Parvus supposed that hee had euen quite dispatched Geoffrey out of this life. For, sa hee insulteth. Nec vnum quidem Archiepiscum vnquam habuere Britones. Neither (saith hee) had the Brittaines in deede so much as one Archbishoppe at any time.

Didst thou learne this amongst the Brigantes?

Afferius Meneuensis, sometimes the Schoolemaster of Alfredus surnamed the greate, king of England, taught mee another manner of matter in these wordes, in the booke of his Cronicles. Qui saepe depredabatur (Hemeidum Regulum intelligit) illud Monasterium & Parochiam S. Degwi, id est, Danidis, aliquando expulsit. Antistitum qui in eo praesent, sicut & nobis Archiepiscopum propinquum meum & me aliquando expulsi, sub ipsis. Which did oftentimes spoyle (he meaneth Hemeidus the Duke) that same Monasterie and parishes of Saint Degwy that is S. David, in times past by banishing of the Bishoppes which bare sway therein, like as he banished sometime fro us the Archbishoppe my neighbour, and me also under them.

Vixit Alfredus
circa.
annum.841.
& post 28. ann.

Isanus & Isca.

Gyraldus makes mention and with verie good credite that Dubritius was Archbishop of Exceter. For Isca so called is the most noble Citie of Deuonia, and most auncient of others. (by reason of the Rivers and founte bearing the same name) there copied, which also was called of the Romans, the citie of Caerlegion or Chester upon Hulse. The Bishoppes Sea being translated from thence unto Sainte Davids, where the most holy and the same most Learned David flourished in the dignity of an Archbishop.

John Stow.

Samp

Sampson a man of famous memorie, Archbishop of S. Davids in Wales shunning the Ackenesse or disease of the Jaundice, went unto Armorica, or the lesse Britaine: where upon came the originall of the Archbishopricke of Dolence. And from Sampsons time vnto victories of y^e Normans ouer the Welchmen all the Bishops beyond Seuerne as yt were of solemne orders were consecrate by the bishop of Sainte Davids their Primate: who when the Paule sayled him, with tooth and nagle retayned still all his title and interest.

Howeuer, it appeareth by y^e Dialogue of Siluester Giraldus that the Cannons at S. Davids (in the time of Dauid the Bishop which succeeded Bernharde) had a treatie with Richarde the greate, Archbishop ouer the Kentish men (in presence of Hugucion the Cardinall) concerning the Metropolitane tyle of their Church: whereof the same Giraldus handled earnestlie an entreatie at Rome, being afterwards chosen Bishop of S. Davids.

And that I may recite more Ancient testimonies, Ptolemaeus Lucensis, (who wrote the liues of the Romish Bishops) declareth y^e in Eleutherius his time thre chiefe flaminia in Britaine were converted into so many Archbishops, London, in old time called Troynouant, & Yeorcke then also called Brigantum, without doubt florished famously with this dignitie or prerogative. Where then is the third Bishops see: Where els but in Wales.

3. Bishops
Sees.
London,
Yeorcke, and
Caerlegion vp
on Huik in
Wales.

In which popete that I my selfe say nothing, Trittemius surely in his abridgment of Cronicles is also a lightsome and plaine witnesse. May not then William Parus the Schoolemaster be ashamed to haue inculcate into the eares of Polidorus his scholler farre better Learned then himselfe such vaine tales. But, beholde, by one euill another euill chodding. The ingrafted error so far forth hath now infected a nuber, y^e scarce is this disease curable by any Helleborus, no though they sayle into Anticyria for y^e same. And yet so sooth are they compelled, I knowe not by what violent Autho^ritie in the meane time to haue a good opinion

of this their Schoolemaster. These I say before hand are
hard poyntes to beleene. Surely I wish all things prosper
rous vnto my Schoolemasters. But when the matter is in
handling concerning truth and credits of the cause, doubt-
lesse I beare no partiall affection towards any of them:
No certainly: & I shoulde by and by knowe that they
woulde enen catch and conuere for mee all mine changes
at once.

A Peroration or brieue Conclusion

To the Readers.

H E therto (most courteous Readers) haue I descri-
bed *Arthure* in his coloures, not without dili-
gence, laboure, and finally a ready good will: but yet in
meane while, whether with like eloquence, graco, and
good successe I haue done this, let that by the iudgement
of honest and learned persons bee determined. For I
knowe very well, *How slender Furniture I haue at home*: For
the which cause I challenge not any thing at all vnto my
selfe: Vndoubtedly I might soone appeare both rash &
vniwise, if I should so doe. Onely I purposed of good will
to make tryall of my wit in a matter honest, to helpe the
history languishing, to aduance the glory of my country,
hindred by enuy, and beeing enthralled vnto the crafty
deceiptes of euill willers, restore the same honestly vnto
liberty. I knowe it will come to passe, that most mighty
enemies will assaulte my doinges: Let them ouer-
come with powre, if they can, so the trueth be ours.
I will imitate the Noble *Palm Tree*, which beeing
pressed downe with heauie burdens yet falleth not to
the ground at any time. And neither at this instant doe I
seeke for any reward: so you vouchsafe me your courtesy,
good will & fauour, truly I may perswade my selfe I haue
all things that I rightlie looke for. And for amendes, on
my part also shall hereunto ensue most requisite promp-
titude & expedite alacrity, enflamed also by vertue of en-
couragement

ment vnto like enterprises not onely, but also to imparte you greater matters which shall stirre vp your learned cares, and being stirred vp, may long detaine them, and so deteyned as it were by a certaine land floude of pleasant delight therewith bring them vnto fragrant fieldes. And all these thinges do I easily promise my selfe, trusting in your honestie and helpe, as one doubtlesse fully bent vpon hope thereof. Surely my muse (such as it is) altogether is youres: neyther tendeth she to any other purpose at any time, but vnto your behoofe, and the commoditie of all men. I count it a base seruice to satisfie the common peoples humor: but to performe you my continuall industrie differeth not far from a kingdome, such a one as by a iust cause I may prefer euen before the kingdome of *Alexander*. For what more reserued hee vnto him selfe wholly (when he dyed) of so greate Riches, possessions and dominions, sauing fame onely. This, (though by many accomptes in example inferior) obteyned by your meane shall I yet so earnestly aduance, that nightes and dayes shall she watch for your welfare & emolument. And at longthe (those same most thicke mistie cloudes in deede of ignorance beeing shaken off, & vtterly dashed aside) the light of *Brittish* Antiquitie with displayed beames farre and wide shall shine forth. God giue you long life and wellfare, most sincere fauorers of vertue and good learning.

FINIS.





Imprinted by Iohn wolfe, dwelling in
Distaffe Lane ouer against the signe of
the Castell.



